

Hafa Adai!

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CNMI's own \$500 stimulus checks may be out in July

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance is preparing to release by next month the CNMI's own stimulus package in the amount of \$500 per taxpayer using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

» **\$10M to \$15M ARPA fund will be allocated to help pay utilities of residential accounts**

That's according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, who said Monday that they are looking at 41,000 taxpayers who will benefit. That's a total of around \$22 million in stimulus payments. Atalig said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has allocated over \$31 million in ARPA funding for this purpose, which the **See \$500 on Page 4**



In this undated photo, former Japan's Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo is shown with medals outside of the Diet.

US documents solve mystery of war criminal Tojo's remains

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Until recently, the location of executed wartime Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo's remains was one of World War II's biggest mysteries in the nation he once led.

Now, a Japanese university professor has revealed declassified U.S. military documents that appear to hold the answer.

The documents show the cremated ashes of Tojo, one of the masterminds of the Pearl Harbor attack, were scattered from a U.S. Army aircraft over the Pacific Ocean about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Yokohama, Japan's second-

See TOJO on Page 4

HAFA ADAI & TIROW PLEDGE

Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member Shayne Villanueva briefs 15 elected and business leaders at the Tinian Mayor's Office on June 11, 2021, about the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge, what it means, and its goal of promoting the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture of the islands. The 15 elected and business leaders later signed the pledge.

MVA

Story on
Page 7



Asiana to return after year-plus absence

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over a year since the suspension of Asiana Airlines flights to the CNMI, the airline is finally scheduled to return to

Saipan starting July.

The return of Korea's flag-ship airline to the CNMI was first reported by Korean media, with one report saying the airline will start with a once-a-

See ASIANA on Page 4

Bail reduced for man accused of rape

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has reduced the bail for the release of an 18-year-old

man who is accused of raping a minor on two separate occasions, one of which allegedly happened on the grounds of the Jesus

See BAIL on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:467pm, June 15, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **59.3%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	23,526
Fully Vaccinated:	21,306
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,005
Fully Vaccinated:	3,490
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	358

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,244	7	8,251
Recovered	8,063	0	8,063
Active	42	7	49
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	172,753		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	84		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

New & Used sells items that residents leaving the island for good are not bringing with them.

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NATION

Nearly 600,000 Americans have now perished in the coronavirus outbreak.

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ASIA

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi goes on trial on what critics say are trumped up charges.

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Local

Torres, Tasi Tours chief talk of reviving Japan market

Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. president Hiroari Kamimori called on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday, June 11, and assured the CNMI government of his company's support in rebuilding the tourism industry in the Marianas.

Kamimori took the helm of the longest-running travel agency in Micronesia early this year, replacing Masato Tezuka, who retired in 2020. Kamimori is also the president

T.P. Micronesia, Inc. in Guam. Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc., which has been operating in the Marianas for the last 45 years, and T.P. Micronesia, Inc. are under JTB Corp., the largest travel agency in Japan.

Since taking over the operations of JTB Corp.'s companies on Saipan and in Guam, Kamimori has been keeping tabs on the region's tourism resumption plans. He mentioned two key areas that he hopes to

see the CNMI will work on to entice Japanese visitors back: Easing of quarantine requirements for visitors and increasing the availability of direct flights from Japan to Saipan.

"Delta's direct flights were abolished in 2018, while Sky-mark Airlines went into service at the end of 2019. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, direct flights from Japan have been suspended. In the future, in order to accept

tourists from Japan, it is necessary to relax the conditions for quarantine and restore direct flight services," Kamimori said.

According to him, the restoration of direct service between Japan and Saipan will help the Marianas gain "Ankintan" status—a term used to describe destinations that are a short distance from Japan and offer affordable pricing and short stays.

"The CNMI is a very important and fascinating destination with its beautiful nature and rich culture. Unfortunately, the number of visitors from Japan has dropped sharply as there are no direct flights. With the revival of direct flights, there will be an urgent need to revive the status as a top-level 'Ankintan' destination," Kamimori said.

The Tasi Tours executive also called on the Marianas to support the Sustainable Development Goals that JTB has been promoting after the initiative was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015. SDGs encourage industry stakeholders to practice sustainable tourism by protecting the environment and its resources, preserving cultural values and heritage, and maximizing contributions to the development of sustainable local communities.

"Learning about SDGs initiatives has become an essential part of an educational trip from Japan. Visits to the

CNMI can greatly enhance the effectiveness of learning the SDGs and may generate new demand," Kamimori said. "In addition, we will establish stable fundamentals that can contribute to the CNMI in the medium- to long-term, such as securing employment and building win-win relationships with business partners."

Meanwhile, Torres recognized Japan as one of the Marianas' key partners in the tourism industry, and having a trusted company like JTB's Tasi Tours around for more than 40 years provides the Commonwealth with a positive outlook in its efforts to bring Japanese visitors back to the islands.

"On behalf of the Marianas, I would like to thank JTB and Tasi Tours for their insight and recommendations for the region and the Marianas. We look forward to working closely with JTB and Tasi Tours to get travel safely back on track and provide their cus-

See MANGLONA on Page 4

5 United flights a week in July; flights every day starting Aug.

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting next month, United Airlines will have five flights to Guam per week, and will transition into daily flights in August.

United Airlines' Saipan general manager Dave Baker, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Saipan, shared the news with fellow Rotarians toward the end of the club's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom yesterday.

In July, United Airlines will have flights on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, departing

at 6:30am.

United's flight schedule for August is as follows: on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, flights on these days will depart at 6:30am. On Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, flights will depart at 9:15am.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, Baker urged travelers with 6:30am flights to be aware that the United ticket counter will be open from 3:30am to 5:30am. For those with 9:15am flights, Baker said the counter will be open from 6:15am to 8:15am.

"We are grateful to our community and their support," said Baker.

JIL Church issues statement

Editor's Note: The following is the official statement of the Jesus is Lord Church (attributed to JIL Saipan Church pastor Lisa Panuringan) in relation to the story titled "Man allegedly rapes minor inside restroom of church" that was published yesterday, June 15, 2021.)

The Jesus is Lord Church-Saipan believes that each person is accountable to God and to the laws of men for their action or inaction. That there is a legal system in every country in place to prosecute the errant and protect the citizenry is a hallmark of every civilized society. This particular incident

as reported in *Saipan Tribune* involving an 18-year old boy who allegedly made sexual advances against a girl who is a minor is something that the JIL Church takes very seriously. The safety of its members, churchgoers and guests in the premises of the church is of paramount importance. Hence, the JIL Church will conduct its own investigation on the matter and will cooperate with the authorities, if necessary, in finding out the truth. The JIL church continues to pray that the truth will come out and that the concerned families find peace as they participate in this process of the state's justice system.

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House JGO Committee to call at least 15 witnesses, Torres

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) disclosed yesterday that they will be calling in at least 15 witnesses, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, in the committee's investigation into Torres' expenditures.

Babauta in an interview said they are also looking at a witness based in California and a couple who are living in Hawaii.

She said she issued what is technically referred to as "1309 letters" to a lot of people yesterday and that the committee expects the recipients to turn in no later than this Monday the documents that her committee is asking for. Letter 1309 in the Commonwealth Code refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

The lawmaker said they will begin calling in witnesses by next week.

She said the original plan was to start calling in witnesses this Friday, but there was some delay because she couldn't issue the 1309 letters last Friday when committee members gave her the authority to do so.

"I didn't have time yesterday to finish the letters to all these people. So definitely today, we are issuing a lot of letters. And we're giving them more than five days actually because we would like to have it by Monday," Babauta said.

She said right now there are at least 15 on the witness list, but that list is growing.

Babauta said to anticipate other delays, they expect to call in three witnesses per day.

As for the off-island witnesses, the lawmaker said the problem with that is if they do not comply, the committee will have to send the House sergeant-at-arms to fetch these witnesses, which means more expenses. "So I still need to sit down with the committee members and get their feedback on that," she said.

The committee's investigation pertains to Torres' expenditures related to COVID-19 procurement, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC matters, and travel and reimbursements.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista on Sunday characterized the investigation as a political tactic that Babauta and the Democrats will "constantly use to fulfill a blatant political agenda, bringing up an old report."

'Probe is going to be step by step process'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said Friday that the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres' expenditures is going to be a methodical, step-by-step process.

He described Friday afternoon's meeting of the JGO Committee as just the first step of looking into Torres' expenditures. "Just an opening to the investigation," he said, adding that the investigation is almost similar to what was done in the 21st Legislature.

Villagomez, who attended the meeting, said the JGO members were just going through the procedural process. "As far as I know, it's just the opening of the investigation. It's going to be a step-by-step process," he said.

The previous House Special Committee on Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan), which then-Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao had created to review Torres' expenditures, was unable to reach a decision in

the matter.

The 21st House minority bloc also submitted a report that stated the records they reviewed showed that Torres took 102 trips that cost the CNMI government at least \$490,000 in airfare, per diem and stipends, lodging, ground transportation, boat transportation, fuel, and incidentals from January 2015 to July 2020.

Babauta had said if the committee's findings warrant it, it could lead to impeachment raps against Torres.

When sought for comments, press secretary Kevin Bautista said the administration welcomes all legitimate inquiries, but last Friday's JGO public hearing made it clear "that the Democrats prioritize politics over the people."

Bautista noted that under the Democratic-led House, revenue-generating bills proposed by Republicans and community partners remain in committee.

"It's been six months into the legislative term and so far only one public law has been enacted," said Bautista, adding that the bill was authored by a Republican in coordination with vital private sector

See **PROBE** on Next Page

NMTI reopening on Aug. 18, 'facelift project' in the works

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute will reopen on Aug. 18 and looks to undergo many improvements before and after reopening, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao.

Speaking at yesterday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom, where she shared details of NMTI's "facelift project," she described it as an effort to make long-term improvements to NMTI's current structure and program offerings.

Part of that is that NMTI will no longer accept rolling applications throughout the year and will instead adopt the Public School System's academic calendar. Attao explained that this is being done to enforce hard deadlines and to ensure that "people take their enrollment in the institute with more seriousness."

Among the long-term goals for the "facelift project" is relocating classrooms in NMTI's campus in Lower Base to be closer to workshops, increasing the institution's reach to its target audience, continuing to build on its current offerings,

and working toward shifting social and cultural attitudes toward the trade professions.

Currently, Attao said, she is in talks with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Corrections to launch an apprenticeship program that focuses on the CNMI's underserved population, helping those involved with both OVR and DOC to increase their skillsets and to smoothly transition into becoming contributing members of society.

"What we're trying to do is build the infrastructure so that we have a pipeline that's

developed for all [who] might be interested in contributing to our community and building the workforce," said Attao.

Currently, NMTI's programs include courses dedicated to building skills for trade professions in construction and automotive, electrical, and culinary lines of work.

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Preparedness tips to stay safe this typhoon season

Typhoon season typically runs from June through November in the Marianas. However, they can occur anytime of the year if the conditions are right. To help families prepare and stay safe, the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter is offering some tips should a typhoon or tropical storm head towards the Marianas.

There are simple steps you can take to be prepared:

- Create an evacuation plan. Plan what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and if you have to evacuate. Coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and your commu-

nity's emergency plans. Plan multiple routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets. If you already have an emergency plan, update it and review with family members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.

- Build an emergency kit with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for an infant and pets if applicable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of the area

and emergency contact information. Because of the pandemic, include a mask for everyone in your household.

- If you already have a disaster kit, now is the time make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date.

- Be informed. Find out how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.

- Download the free Red Cross Emergency app to help keep you and your loved ones safe with real-time alerts, and safety advice on typhoons and other emergencies.

TOJO

From Page 1

largest city, south of Tokyo.

It was a tension-filled, highly secretive mission, with American officials apparently taking extreme steps meant to keep Tojo's remains, and those of six others executed with him, away from ultra-nationalists looking to glorify them as martyrs. The seven were hanged for war crimes just before Christmas in 1948, three years after Ja-

pan's defeat.

The discovery brings partial closure to a painful chapter of Japanese history that still plays out today, as conservative Japanese politicians attempt to whitewash history, leading to friction with wartime victims, especially China and South Korea.

After years spent verifying and checking details and evaluating the significance of what he'd found, Nihon University Professor Hiroaki Takazawa publicly released the clues to the remains' location last week. He came across the declassi-

fied documents in 2018 at the U.S. National Archives in Washington. It's believed to be the first time official documents showing the handling of the seven war criminals' remains were made public, according to Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies and the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records.

Hidetoshi Tojo, the leader's great-grandson, told The Associated Press that the absence of the remains has long been a humiliation for the bereaved families, but he's relieved the information has come to light.

\$500

From Page 1

CNMI government is calling "local stimulus."

"The goal is to have that program by the end of July, giving each taxpayer at least \$500 that they can

spend to help their families as they go through the pandemic," he said.

In addition, the government is also planning to help pay for the utility bills of all residential accounts to help residents with the high cost of utilities, Atalig disclosed. He said \$10 million to \$15 million will be divided equally

among all residential accounts, but commercial or government accounts are not included. Atalig did not specify when they are going to release the utility payments.

The secretary said they may allocate more than \$31 million, as the total payments for both stimulus and utility reaches about \$37 million.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres meets with Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc. president Hiroari Kamimori on Saipan to discuss the future of the Marianas' tourism industry and plans to re-establish the Commonwealth's Japan market.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TORRES

From Page 2

tomers with new multi-island travel opportunities and valuable experiences," Torres said. "The Marianas is targeting a safe reopening of the Japan market later this year. Through

the careful planning and engagement with our vital partners in Japan, we remain hopeful that we can have a steady stream of Japanese visitors in the years to come and reaffirm the special bond between Japan and the Marianas."

Torres, through the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers that he co-chairs, has identified critical

components in the Marianas' efforts to rebuild its tourism economy, get people back to work, and generate revenue that was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A major focus for tourism stakeholders is re-engaging the Japan market as the islands prepare to safely reopen their borders. (PR)

- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or invest in plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows. Identify a place to store outdoor furniture, toys, tools and trash cans (away from stairs and exits) to prevent them from being moved by high winds and possibly hurting someone.

COVID-19 safety

As the pandemic continues, the Red Cross has procedures and resources

in place to help ensure everyone's safety, especially when it comes to supporting local communities if a typhoon threatens. The Red Cross is still providing the same types of support after disasters as we always have. The Red Cross has put in place additional precautions, in line with CDC and the CNMI's COVID-19 Task Force's recommendations, including social distancing protocols, masks, health screenings and enhanced cleaning procedures. (PR)

ASIANA

From Page 1

week service to the island.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said she is aware of a charter flight scheduled for July 17 and hopes to see regular flights in the near future.

"I am aware that there's a charter flight scheduled to come on July 17. It is my hope to see regularly scheduled flights in the near future. Asiana is a valued partner of not just CPA but the entire CNMI and we are hopeful that we can come out of this pandemic better and stronger together," she said.

According to a Korea-based media outlet, *Korea Joong Ang Daily*, that could happen as soon as the middle of next month, with Asiana Airlines set to resume once-a-week flight service to Saipan starting July

24. The Asiana flight, which will reportedly use a 174-seater A321, expects to leave Incheon at 9am and return the same day, departing at 4pm from Saipan and arriving at Incheon at 7:40pm.

Korea Joong Ang Daily reports that the airline hopes to activate international travel and the airline market with the resumption of the Saipan route as the first step.

The report also states that Asiana Airlines plans to increase the number of available routes in response to talks with a number of countries, including Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand, to allow quarantine-free package tours for vaccinated people.

Asiana Airlines suspended the Incheon-Saipan route in March 2020.

Right now, 59.3% of the CNMI's eligible population has already been vaccinated and is has one of the lowest infection rates in the world.

BAIL

From Page 1

is Lord Church in Dandan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio reduced the bail by 50%—from \$20,000 to \$10,000—after arguments at yesterday's bail modification hearing for John Timothy Villasis Vergara.

The court also allowed Vergara's family to post 10% of the reduced bail, or \$1,000, for his release.

Kim-Tenorio also approved the proposal of the suspect's mother, Maryann Vergara, as his third-party custodian.

During the hearing, assistant attorney general James Houston opposed reducing the bail amount because of the seriousness of the crime and because it happened on two separate occasions and less than a year from one another. He stated that the initial \$20,000 bail did not seem unreasonable if it meant protecting the victim and other minors from the same incident.

In addition, Houston argued that he was not convinced that Vergara's mother would be able to control him and ensure that he follows all the court's conditions.

However, Vergara's lawyer, Office of the Public Defender's J.P. Nogues, said there are no facts at this time to support the accusation being leveled

against Vergara. Nogues said that everything the court has on Vergara remain allegations, adding that he feels it isn't a strong case to begin with.

In a statement released by the Jesus is Lord Church pastor Liza Panuringan, she said JIL Church Saipan takes the allegations very seriously and will be conduct its own investigation to find out the truth behind the incident.

"[We] believe each person is accountable to God and to the laws of men for their action or inaction. That there is a legal system in every country in place to prosecute the errant and protect the citizenry is a hallmark of every civilized society. This particular incident involving an 18-year-old boy who allegedly made sexual advances against a girl who is a minor is something that the JIL Church takes very seriously. The safety of its members, churchgoers, and guests in the premises of the Church is a paramount importance. Hence, the JIL Church will conduct its own investigation on the matter and will cooperate with the authorities, if necessary, in finding out the truth," she said. **See statement on Page 2**

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, two sexual abuse of a minor cases were filed against Vergara: one for an incident that allegedly happened in Micro Beach back in August 2020, and another that allegedly happened in the restroom of the Jesus is Lord Church last June 2.

PROBE

From Page 3

leaders to develop the CNMI's economy, fix the permitting process, and create more jobs for the people.

He said the Democratic-led House continues to push for their political agenda, which consists of a political

witch hunt on people they do not like, a focus on mainland political issues, and regional conferences to promote their personal platforms.

"In the process, the Democrats leave people behind by not having constructive conversations about our economy and the people that depend on policy solutions." Bautista said.

Benson: CUC's power system is a mess, needs total revamp

Del Benson, who has been a Saipan resident for almost 30 years now, says the power system of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is a mess and needs a total revamp. One particular sticking point is that CUC's Power Division and Customer Service don't seem to be communicating, causing customers to be frustrated, he said.

Speaking at CUC's special board meeting last Wednesday, Benson appealed to the board to do something to improve the system as it is not fair to the customers and to the CUC employees as well.

"I feel sorry for your Customer Service people. They're the ones on the front line that take a hit. They're the ones that deal with the frustration," he said.

CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona said they will discuss the matter with the management

and see what can be done about Benson's complaint.

At a public comment portion of the board meeting, Benson said there are countless problems that he has personally encountered. "There is always something—deadlines not being met, phone calls not returned, surveys [saying] that people show up and they'd look at the wrong thing," he said. "And so I'm pleading, quit talking and do something please."

Benson said he shouldn't have to spend hours trying to deal with some of these minor things. "Our system is a mess. And people get so frustrated," he added.

"Why is there always a survey to come up with the price? The price should be known right then," he said.

Benson said he has been on

the island so long that he does not know what it's like getting power in the United States. "But I have people say I just call up a number and they switch the power," he said.

CUC, on the other hand, has laborious processes, especially with new hooks up, he said.

He said his son twice submitted applications for a new meter because his (Benson's) brother has moved here, and the application has been pending for three months. "Customer Service drops the ball, they got confused. But no return calls," he said.

He wonders if the board members are hearing the plea of the people. He said the board directors are in a position to do something so they must come up with a system.

"I think you need to totally revamp the system. It's not

working. There's no communication going on here. And it's a disruption. It's slow. It's just a waste of energy on our part," Benson said. "So I would really appreciate you guys talking and doing something. I know a lot of times the board get together and... talk [of doing] a lot of things, then we never get things done," he said.

Benson said he has not seen much of a positive change in CUC's power system for many years now. "Yeah, we have money issues. Yeah, we

have a lot of issues. But there are some core things that we can do," he said. Part of that is to aggressively participate in the CNMI government's efforts to transition to a software that will make government services more efficient.

"Changes are hard, I understand that. But please, I plead with you. Get your process under evaluation. Don't patch it. Rework it," he said.

Benson said when he comes in at the customer service, he also complains of the inefficiencies and the staff shake

their heads and say they try. "It's not being fair to the customer. It's not being fair to your employees. And you guys are in the power to do something," he told the board.

Benson did commend CUC for its "marvelous job" during the last super typhoon in 2018. "We all really took a hit. And I think a lot of people were patient, and I think your people worked their tails off and I appreciate that," he told the board. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public meetings set for draft CSDP

The Office of Planning and Development under the CNMI Office of the Governor, in coordination with our Planning and Development Advisory Council, has published the Draft Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan for public review and comment. The CSDP is a strategic plan that aims to

provide a roadmap to guide sustainable growth and investment priorities in the CNMI for the next ten-year planning horizon.

Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- June 16-17, Tinian
- June 20-21, Saipan and Northern Islands
- June 28-29, Rota

Visit opd.gov.mp/ to verify times and locations. Contact the Office of Planning and Development at planning@opd.gov.mp

gov.mp if you have questions or comments and to register to virtually attend. Visit opd.gov.mp/ to learn more about the CSDP and ongoing planning efforts.

Join us and make your voice heard as we work to create a bright and sustainable CNMI!

The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and submit comments that will be incorporated into the future—and soon to be final—version of the CSDP. **(PR)**



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PH support office to issue 3,000-plus new passports

Since the end of May, the Philippine Honorary Consul-CNMI Support Office has been issuing Philippine passports in batches and is expected to issue a total of over 3,000.

The office first received around 1,900 passports three weeks ago and received 730 more lately. The office expects to receive around 400 passports next week.

According to an honorary consulate staff, the incoming passports are from the batch of passport applications that were processed the last time the Philippine Consulate General-Guam conducted a mobile consular outreach on Saipan from March 18 to April 11.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that some 1,500 additional passport applications were submitted to the Saipan honorary consulate office, and that further processing requires the presence of the Philippine Consulate General-Guam, as it owns the biometric equipment that are essential to the application process. Plans of another mobile consular outreach this year from June 29 to July 16 are still being discussed. *(Joshua Santos)*

Customs-Quarantine merger draws supports from DLNR, Customs chiefs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente and Division of Custom Services director Jose Mafnas Sr. both support an executive order that transfers the Agriculture Quarantine Section of DLNR to the Custom Services of the Department of Finance.

At a hearing before the House Committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary and Governmental Operations, Benavente said that combining Custom Services and Agricultural Quarantine Section in one office is the best way to protect the CNMI's borders.

"I know that there might be some disagreement, but believe me, they're in the first stage. It always feels that way. But as time comes along, things work out," Benavente said.

Last April 27, Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres issued Executive Order 2021-09 transferring the Quarantine Section of DLNR to Finance and combining it with the Division of Custom Services, thereby creating the Division of Customs and Quarantine.

Custom Services Director Mafnas said his meetings with both Tinian and Rota have shown him that Quarantine officers have a positive reception to the merger.

"They are happy," said Mafnas, who emphasized that Quarantine officers are not subordinate to Customs and that they are equal.

Mafnas said they will change the officers title into Customs and Quarantine officers and they will create a biosecurity unit in their organizational chart because of the Quarantine officers' knowledge and expertise on agriculture matters.

"They will focus on the agricultural enforcement. They

will be the point of contact with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture]," Mafnas said.

The director assured everyone and the House committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary and Governmental Operations chaired by Reps. Sheila Babauta and Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), respectively, that enforcement at the ports will be enhanced. Mafnas said it is the same position—with Customs having zero tolerance for illegal drug, and Quarantine having zero tolerance for invasive species or pests.

"I already informed the officers, 'You open a container [and] you see a bug flying, close it immediately and we will not allow those kind of bugs to enter our islands,'" he said.


In his executive order, Torres said the integration of the Agricultural Quarantine Section with the Division of Custom Services will bolster the effectiveness of enforcement of protections against unwanted or illicit importation products, items, or goods that are harmful to the environment, economy, and quality of life of the people.

The director of Customs Services shall become the director of Customs and Quarantine.




Division of Custom Services director Jose Mafnas Sr. and Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente express their support for the transfer of the Agricultural Quarantine Section of DLNR to the Custom Services of the Department of Finance during a hearing Thursday before the House Committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepared a PHA Five Year Plan for the upcoming five years. NMHC has not made any changes to the goals, objectives and policies on the Five Year Plan that was submitted and approved. Therefore, NMHC would like to inform the general public that:

- NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the Five Year PHA Plan on July 12, 2021, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
- NMHC will open the public comment period from May 25, 2021 through July 12, 2021; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2021 to:
 - Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Attn: PHA Five Year Plan
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the Five year PHA Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the Five year PHA plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhc.gov.net and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

06/15/21
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 706	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	Office of Grants Management	\$284,910.80	(\$157,910.80)	\$ 0.00	\$157,910.80
IDIS# 705	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	DCCA-Division of Youth Services	\$200,000.00	(\$200,000.00)	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
IDIS# 701	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	\$86,250.00	\$86,250.00	\$0.00	\$86,250.00
IDIS# 694		Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal		\$300,000.00	(\$9,400.00)	\$23,216.45	\$32,616.45
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(\$453,560.80)		
NEW	CDBG	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	\$200,000.00	\$444,160.80	\$644,160.80	\$200,000.00
IDIS# 716	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Light Fixtures for the Oleai Track and Field Facility	Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA)	\$377,000.00	\$9,400.00	\$386,400.00	\$377,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$453,560.80		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" to change purpose, scope, beneficiary of activity and to reprogram funds in the amount of \$100,001.00 or more. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before Monday, June 21, 2021 no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian leaders take Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge



MVA

Elected and business leaders of Tinian are the latest to join the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge program, vowing to help promote the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures of the Marianas.

Last Friday, June 13, Tinian and Aguigan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan led 14 other individuals in a pledge ceremony with representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce, who jointly operate the pledge program.

"The community of Tinian is renowned for its hospitality, which makes this pledge ceremony with Mayor Aldan and others who have taken the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge even more meaningful," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "As we are all a product of the Marianas, our traditions, history, language, values, and arts shape who we are, and most importantly, it is the preservation of our cultures that keep our identity alive today, tomorrow, and in the future."

Joining Aldan were 18th Tinian Municipal Council chair Joseph E. Santos, 22nd Tinian & Aguigan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, Tourific Tinian dba Fleming Hotel owner Deborah Fleming, JC Café Restaurant and Karaoke Lounge manager Lot G. Bunao, SAM E Corp. dba Tinian Oceanview Hotel manager Heeyeon Cabrera, HJ2 Corporation dba Good Tour/Car Rental owner Jang Moon Soo, MIK Tours owner

Miho K. Evangelista, Bridge Investment Group, LLC dba Tinian Diamond Hotel accountant Rosalie R. Masga, Lorilynn's Hotel owner Jun Chou, Triple J Saipan, Inc. dba Bar-K-Diner/The Western Lodge operations manager Jim Barton, Tinian Express owner Suzuki Atsushi, Queen's Restaurant owner Meihua Xuan, and Susan's Creations owner Mary Susan Perez.

The Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge encompasses the action of "Ta Fan Un Kurason/Sibwe Tipiyeew" (be united), uniting public and private sectors and individuals in a commitment for the preservation and promotion of the Chamorro and Carolinian language, culture, and traditions. The program involves taking efforts every day to make a difference in the survival of these cultures in some way or another, including taking continuous steps to "go local, look local, and think local" in the areas of language, arts, traditions, history and values. The program welcomes all businesses, organizations, and companies interested in strengthening the core values and traditions of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The ceremony was also attended by Senate President Jude Hofschneider, Sen. Karl King-Nabors, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero, and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds. (PR)

Elected and business leaders gather at the Tinian Mayor's Office on June 11, 2021, to take the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge, vowing to promote the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture of the islands. The pledge ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce, joint organizers of the program.


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-026**

SUBMISSION DATE: July 14, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1344 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.


There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 02, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1344**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 07, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES





PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, under the Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby give notice to all eligible CNMI stakeholders of the available grant funding opportunity for projects that correspond with the CNMI Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). As of fiscal year 2021, The CNMI has been awarded \$3.8 million. This funding was made available by The National Park Service (NPS) through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), 54 U.S.C. § 200305.

All eligible stakeholders are encouraged to contact Grants Specialist, Ed Hofschneider Jr. from the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse at (670) 237-2220 or by email at cnmi.scorp@gmail.com.

The opening date for LWCF State Assistance Formula Grants - Construction - FY21 Cycle 2 is June 2, 2021 and the closing date is July 30, 2021. All eligible stakeholders are encouraged to review grant notice P21AS00540 at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for guidelines and other documentation requirements.

/s/ Epiphany E. Cabrera Jr.
Administrator, OGM / State Liaison Officer, LWCF

NEWS BRIEFS

Delay in transfer of June 15 benefit payments

As of 3:30pm, the Settlement Fund has confirmed the transfer of funds to members holding accounts at the Bank of Saipan and City Trust Bank. We will continue to monitor the transfer of funds to other non-Bank of Hawaii account members and update as information is provided. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to resolve the issues.

Contact information for the Settlement Fund:

■ Tel: (670) 322-3863
■ Fax: (670) 664-8080

■ Email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)

Surui Huang named to Dean's List at Lehigh U BETHLEHEM, PA—Dean's

List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Surui Huang of Saipan in the spring 2021 semester.

Lehigh's five colleges—College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Health, and the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science—provides opportunities to 7,000+ students. (PR)

HAPPY WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY!

Sea turtles are some of the most ancient animals in the world, having been around for over 100 million years. In the CNMI, sea turtles play a vital role in maintaining the health of our marine ecosystems and hold a large cultural and tourism value. Unfortunately after years of intense poaching, nesting turtles are at risk of extinction. How can we help?

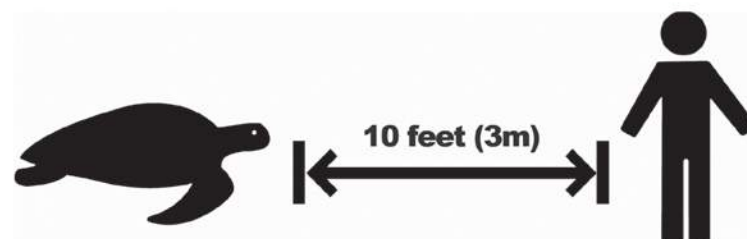
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TURTLE LAWS**



**DO NOT FEED
SEA TURTLES**



VIEW SEA TURTLES FROM A DISTANCE
(while snorkeling, SCUBA diving, or during other marine activities)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Capitol safety is paramount

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker, R-Pa., has been slapped with a \$5,000 fine for deliberately bypassing a metal detector screening in the Capitol while on his way to cast a vote last month. A staff member for the congressman said he plans to appeal the fine.

Instead, Smucker should pay the fine, acknowledge his error in judgment and apologize to the security people whose attempts to get him to pass through the detectors were ignored.

A report by Capitol Police security officers released by the House Ethics Committee said Smucker disregarded two officers who tried to get his attention to complete the screening. He entered the House chamber then returned for the screening after casting a vote.

The security measures were put in place after the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and are there for the safety of elected



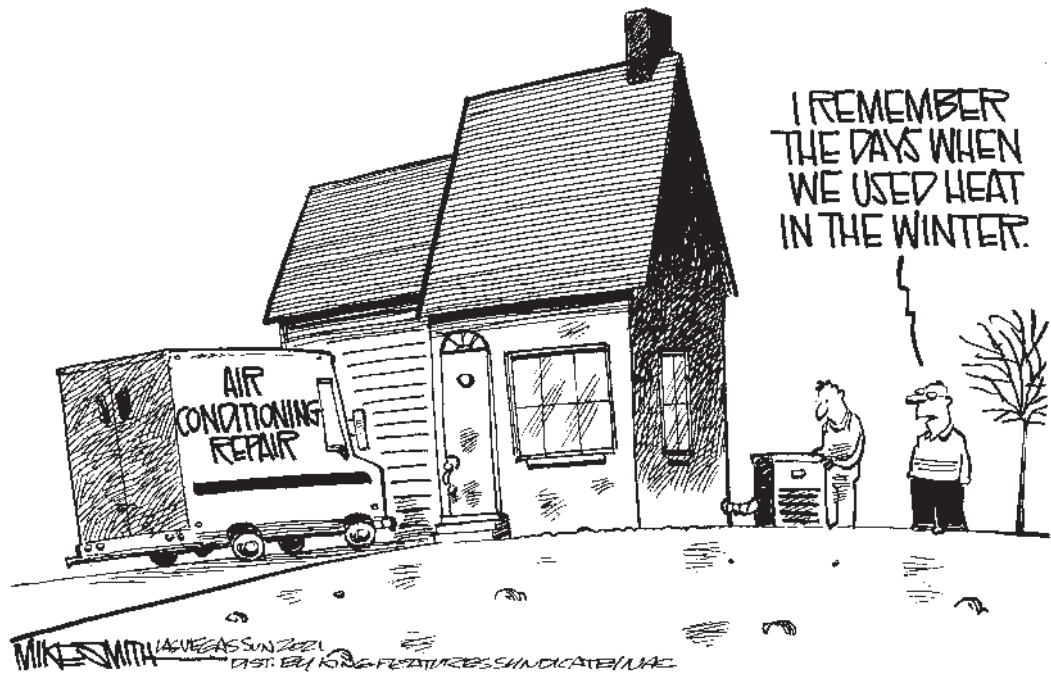
officials such as Smucker as well as the thousands of congressional and support staff who work in the building. If the Jan. 6 attack taught us nothing else, it showed the need for better and more vigilant security.

The House voted in February to establish the fines—\$5,000 for the first offense and \$10,000 for a second—after several Republicans refused to comply with the metal detector screenings. Smucker is the sixth House member (and fifth Republican) to be fined for violating the safety protocol, although the fines against Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., and Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., were dropped after appeal to the House Ethics Committee. A bipartisan majority of the 10-member ethics committee must agree to overturn a fine in order for an appeal to succeed.

Stricter security measures have been part of our daily lives even before Jan. 6. We wait in line to pass through security checkpoints at airports, sporting venues and public buildings. The delays are a small price to pay for safety. Attempts like Smucker's to circumvent safety measures are a slap in the face to the people who are doing their best to protect everyone.

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AS GLOBAL WARMING CONTINUES...



I don't know the route to peace in the Holy Land—I only hope there is one

The Holy Land's deadly conflicts are like the twisting and turning streets of Jerusalem's Old City. They can lure a tourist into a cul-de-sac. So it is with the wars between Palestinians and Israelis. Knowing only the latest chapter of a convoluted story leads to an intellectual trap.

Like the philosopher George Santayana said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The saga stretches from 637 when an Arab army captured Jerusalem to the recent 11-day exchange of missiles. But let's pick it up in 1948. That year, the Israelis won their war of independence, which the Palestinians call the nakba, their catastrophe. In Germany, 175,000 Holocaust survivors were stuck in refugee camps.

Some survivors tried returning to Poland and were killed in pogroms. The U.S. and other nations didn't want them. Some tried slipping into Palestine, then a British possession. Those who got caught were interned behind barbed wire in Cyprus.

When the United Nations voted to divide Palestine between Arabs and Jews, five Arab nations invaded, proclaiming their intention to destroy Israel. It seemed a David and Goliath rerun: well-equipped Arab armies versus an improvised Jewish militia with hand-me-down guns.

On my way to Hebrew school, I faced a gentile-boys chorus that was certain that Israel would be stillborn:

Sons of Chiam and Abie/ Join the Jewish navy/ Fight, fight, fight/ For Palestine!

I cite that because while I try to be objective I can't guarantee it. Especially because once the 1948 war began, those Holocaust survivors had somewhere to go. As they landed in Israel, some were handed rifles and sent into battle.

Other Jews were expelled from territories occupied by the Jordanian and Egyptian armies. Many Palestinians were forced out of the land that Israel won. Others left when the fighting came their way, and the Palestinian refugees greatly outnumbered the displaced Jews.

Palestinians and their supporters say that ratio means they're the aggrieved party. But using arithmetic to make moral judgments is tricky.

For instance, some Palestinians stayed, so currently over a million Israeli citizens are Palestinians. And when Israel won the war, the Arab nations pressured and persecuted their Jews. Iraq already had a pogrom during World War II.

More than 600,000 Jews from Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Syria found refuge in Israel. That's roughly the number of Palestinian refugees.

Does that ratio suggest a draw? Or, even that Jews were the aggrieved party—if we add the Algerian Jews who ran for their lives when that French colony won its independence?

But in those numbers I only hear pain. My brain crashes when tasked with offsetting one person's suffering with another's.

By **RON GROSSMAN**

Chicago Tribune

Ron Grossman is a Chicago Tribune reporter.



That calculus became even trickier in 1967. Five Arab nations again massed their armies on Israel's border, and Iraq's president announced: "The existence of Israel is an error that must be rectified."

But Israel struck first and captured the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Any hope of swapping them for peace was dashed when the Arab League nixed negotiating or even recognizing Israel.

Instead the West Bank became an undeniably segregated society. Israeli settlers use roads denied to Palestinians. But didn't Arab nations offer a master class in apartheid by expelling their Jews?

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter nudged Israel and Egypt into a peace agreement. In 2000, President Bill Clinton nudged the Israelis into offering the Palestinians a state. Chairman Yasser Arafat rejected it without making a counter offer.

When I recounted that on a Public Radio broadcast, the host said it was because Arafat objected to the map he was shown.

"There was no map," I said.

On that note the interview ended.

In 2005, Ariel Sharon, a tough-guy prime minister, tried a unilateral approach. He pulled 8,000 Israeli settlers plus security personnel out of Gaza. Two years later, Hamas forced the Palestinian Authority out and has been shelling Israel ever since.

Yet amid terrorist attacks and reprisals there have been acts of human kindness. On the eve of the recent exchange of missiles, the viewing stands collapsed during a religious celebration in northern Israel. Palestinian villagers brought water to survivors, descending mountain roads after dark.

That's the ethical imperative of the desert: A stranger must be welcomed to your well. If there was more of that, I might see a route to peace.

But all I can offer is something between a wish and a prayer. It came to my lips when saying farewell to a Palestinian family in Hebron, 40 years ago. I had an overnight stay there, to the delight of the father, a teacher of English. We talked about favorite authors, Steinbeck and Hemingway, and his daughters giggled.

I said: "May all our children live in a world of peace." Ever since, I've silently repeated it when thinking of all those martyred and made homeless in Palestine and Israel.

I don't do that thinking they hear me. But because I hear them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The UFO report won't change minds. But maybe it should

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
BLOOMBERG OPINION

Those of us who've dreamed of extraterrestrial life since sci-fi-drenched childhoods are awaiting the federal government's forthcoming report on UFOs. And yet the report is unlikely to change any minds.

Which makes the controversy over unidentified flying objects a lot like everything else these days—and a good candidate to teach us a thing or two about the value of cognitive humility.

Let's start with some data. Pollsters tell us that one American in three believes that we've had extraterrestrial visitors. And—for once!—there's no partisan divide. According to Gallup, Democrats (32%) and Republicans (30%) are about equally likely to believe that at least some UFOs are alien spacecraft. Belief is somewhat higher among independents, at a robust 38%. (And maybe higher still in Roswell, New Mexico.)

Somebody's right; somebody's wrong.

Should we decide who by relying on official pronouncements? According to multiple leaks, the congressionally mandated report from the Director of National Intelligence, due any day, will say that the government has no evidence of extraterrestrial visitors. Does it follow that those who believe otherwise are—to take the current argot—living in a realm that's fact-free?

I'll go with no—but it's important to understand why.

For enthusiasts, the toughest challenge has always been Fermi's paradox: If the universe contains other civilizations more advanced than ours, why haven't we found any sign? Our searches have come up nil, even in regions we've swept with care.

Happily, if you're among the believers, you have plenty of ripostes to choose from.

Readers of Liu Cixin's "Three-Body Problem" trilogy are familiar with the theory that extraterrestrials are quite rationally hiding their locations, to avoid being destroyed by more powerful extraterrestrials. Another idea, proposed by the economist Robin Hanson and his collaborators, is that any "grabby" civilizations out there have expanded so rapidly that we can't detect the signs. Why not? Because their rapid expansions came after the signals we can observe departed their distant galaxies billions of years ago: "If they were where we could see them, they would be here now instead of us." (A

thought that for Hanson helps explain why, if more advanced civilizations exist, we shouldn't be trying quite so hard to contact them.) A third possibility is that more advanced aliens exist, and they're neither hiding nor grabby but instead have found a path of technological evolution that doesn't leave the sorts of signals we're capable of searching for.

Fair enough.

On the other hand, the conspiratorially minded might conclude that the U.S. government knows we've had visitors and is hiding the truth. (Cue "Independence Day.") For those who take this view, the claims by various government agencies to have no evidence that UFOs are alien spacecraft might serve only to deepen suspicion. After all, if a massive conspiracy has been hiding the truth for decades, the conspirators are hardly going to disclose the details just because Congress says so!

Besides, according to The New York Times, there will be something for everyone in the report. A number of the UFOs spotted by military aircraft over the years remain unidentified. (UAPs, the government now calls them, for "unidentified aerial phenomena.") The report is expected to conclude that they aren't part of any known classified program. When Scientific American is forced to admit that "the mind boggles" at the many possibilities, we might reasonably predict that not too many minds will be changed.

But this should come as no surprise. We turn out not to be good at changing our minds. Our political divisions make this tendency worse. Committed political partisans not only have trouble altering their views on contested political issues; even in everyday life, they seem to suffer from a more general cognitive inflexibility.

That's one of the reasons that what we ought to be cultivating is a general cognitive humility—not just about UFOs but about much more in the world around us. Like the Handarrata

in Ursula LeGuin's "The Left Hand of Darkness," we need to gain a keen sense of how little we know.

Cognitive humility involves recognizing our biases and shortcomings, in part by cultivating a realistic estimate of our own knowledge and powers of reason. It's a skill that matters. On many contested issues, we tend to make up our minds on which expert to trust only after we know which one takes the same view we do. There's no reason to expect the UFO debate to be any different.

Consider the strangely behaving object currently speeding out of the Solar System. Dubbed 'Oumuamua, a Hawaiian term for "visitor from afar arriving first," most researchers think it is the remnant of a comet, but Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb argues it has characteristics that suggest a technological origin. One needn't get in the middle of that fight to recognize that a lot of observers have chosen sides according to their priors.

Where does that leave me? In the situation where I think we should most often be. Rather than label the beliefs of UFO enthusiasts false, I prefer to say that much as I'd like them to be right, I'm not yet persuaded. Perhaps the piece of evidence that will make the difference is right around the corner.

And if extraterrestrial visitors ever do arrive, I suspect they'll have plenty of cognitive humility already. (No "Klaatu barada nikto.") Otherwise, they'd have far been too busy fighting each other to make their way across the stars.

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include The Emperor of Ocean Park, and his latest nonfiction book is Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster.

Learning to live with assault weapons

By **JOHN M. CRISP**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

President Joe Biden supports a ban on assault weapons like the one that has been in place in California since 1989. On June 4, however, Roger Benitez, United States judge for the Southern District of California, ruled that California's ban is unconstitutional.

The judge is probably correct.

Benitez's ruling is a peculiar piece of work for a document that aspires to serious legal analysis. The ruling's tone and the judge's personal high regard for assault weapons are obvious in its first sentence: "Like the Swiss Army Knife, the popular AR-15 rifle is a perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment."

Later the document begins to sound like an infomercial: "On an AR-15 rifle, a telescoping stock is typically capable of adjusting to between three and six different lengths. This enables the rifle stock to be quickly and properly adjusted to fit the user, which is particularly beneficial to persons of smaller stature."

One size fits all. Even Mom and Junior can comfortably fire Dad's AR-15.

Elsewhere Benitez's prose smacks of the oppression that pro-gun advocates claim to endure at the hands of anti-gun zealots: "Under this relaxed test a state could enter a person's home without a warrant and seize him or his guns in violation of the Fourth Amendment prohibition of searches and seizures without a warrant." This is paranoia worthy of an NRA lobbyist.

Benitez devotes a couple of pages to breathless descriptions of six cases in which homeowners used AR-15s to thwart home invasions, but he doesn't acknowledge that this is anecdotal evidence, which should be of questionable standing in legal analysis.

The judge also doesn't note that, according to FBI homicide data, for every "justifiable" gun homicide in 2012, there were 34 criminal homicides, 78 suicides and two accidental gun deaths.

And how common are home invasions? Benitez says, "it surely happens a lot."

All we really need to know about the sketchy nature of this ruling is this unhelpful sentence from page 47: "More people

have died from the COVID-19 vaccine than mass shootings in California." That can't be true. In fact, it's not, suggesting that we should view the entire document with some skepticism.

Our American infatuation with firearms is regrettable. The daily carnage is tragic. And the emergence of the AR-15 as the essential icon of a disgruntled minority who are angry, fearful, aggrieved and hostile to government is ominous.

Nevertheless, despite his bias, Benitez probably got it right about the unconstitutionality of an assault weapons ban, and his ruling is a good predictor of the result if the issue ever reaches our conservative Supreme Court.

The right to have a weapon for self-protection precedes the Constitution, a right so "natural" that the founders didn't bother to secure it by language any stronger than the slender reed of the Second Amendment.

The founders could not have imagined the killing efficiency of a modern assault rifle, any more than they could have imagined television, a Black president or a female vice president. For them, the "right to bear arms" implied muzzle-loading muskets. Still, if the modern hypothetical home invader is much better armed than in colonial times, the modern hypothetical homeowner has a right to be better armed, as well.

The unashamedly pro-gun Judge Benitez took a dubious path to the right conclusion. Like the judge, our society may be so infatuated with guns that his was the only possible finding.

But even a constitutional right can be limited. The courts have held that citizens cannot own machine guns or bazookas. Some of the carnage might be limited by more rigorous background checks, mandatory training and demonstrated proficiency.

Even Judge Benitez's ruling includes testimony (p. 30, p. 47) suggesting that the real culprit in mass shootings is large-capacity magazines. Reducing legal magazine size might help even the odds in the Great American Shoot-Out.

But in the meantime, our challenge is to find a way to live in a society drowning in guns, even as a huddle of us die every day by gunfire.

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumnns@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To all CUC users

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has scheduled a special meeting today, June 16, at 10:30am. I brought up an issue at the last board meeting regarding the frustrations of working in getting power to the house or apartments. They said they would cover the issue in a special board meeting.

If you have had problems with CUC please come. They need to finally put their house in order and rework their system, from the application to flipping on the light and all in-between.

The CNMI is going through software revamp of the government, which will be a great thing and bring us into the 21st century. CUC should jump on board.

The changes need to happen. No more excuses.






Del Benson
Capital Hill, Saipan

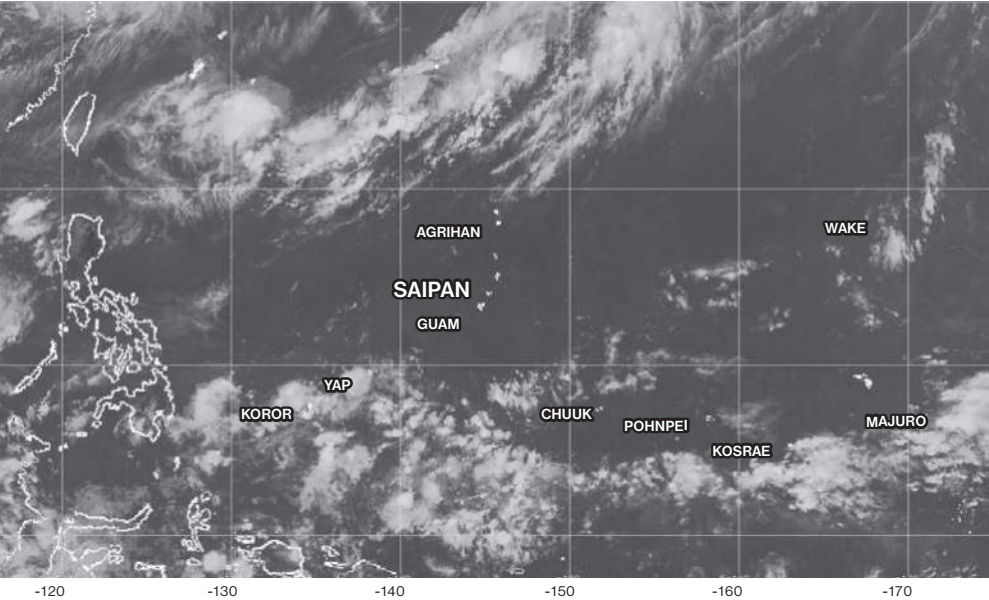
Wild honeybees

Chris Rosario, a scientist with the University of Guam, will be visiting Saipan the week of July 4. He is studying the honeybee populations in the Marianas. He is hopeful to find hives of wild honeybees to study and possibly collect. He would appreciate anyone knowing of a wild hive. Contact him by phone or WhatsApp at 1(671) 487-1640

David S. Grauman MD FACP
Adult Outpatient Medicine
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 3 feet composed of a small north swell and a small east swell of about 2 feet each.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84 77 °F	
Yap	Partly cloudy	87 73 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:31 AM	11:30 PM	-
Thursday	11:25 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:11 AM	12:19 PM
Saturday	-	12:51 AM	1:13 PM
Sunday	-	1:32 AM	2:09 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	63 53 °F	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	85 73 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87 82 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 73 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	77 58 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77 60 °F	
Manila	Mostly cloudy	87 78 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	60 46 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	80 59 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	80 61 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	85 64 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	84 60 °F	
Rome	Sunny	91 67 °F	
Salem	Overcast	64 46 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	68 52 °F	
Seoul	Mostly sunny	81 60 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	76 64 °F	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	87 65 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:39 AM	High Tide	2.03	
6:19 AM	Low Tide	1.46	
10:23 AM	High Tide	1.78	
5:52 PM	Low Tide	0.12	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

New & Used opens in Chalan Kanoa

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While something new and something used are items usually associated with weddings, a new store bearing those words in Susupe is not a bridal shop.

New & Used, located across Kanoa Resort in the same building where Winchell's Donuts is, opened last Tuesday and its owner, Li Chen, said the store's original concept was to sell items residents leaving the island for good are not bringing with them.

"First, due to the global spread of the coronavirus, many people have been forced to leave the islands, leaving a lot of things behind. We hope to collect those items and sell them," said the former tour agent.

That's the used part. As far as the new part, Chen said New & Used wants to offer products not readily available on Saipan for the benefit of customers.

"There are a lot of novel products abroad and there are none of those on the island. We also hope to sell those products here," he said.

When asked why he's opening up a business in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 49-year-old from Guangzhou, China said he's waited long enough to start a business and, COVID-19

or not, the time is now ripe to open New & Used.

"Because the epidemic has been more than a year, we still don't know when it will end. I hope the opening of this shop will help signal the beginning of the economic recovery of the island," he said.

Currently, New & Used is full to the brim with new and used furniture like beds, cabinets, housewares, inflatables, children's toys, remote control cars, bikes, skateboards, food containers, light bulbs that automatically switch on in the dark, and household items.

Chen also assured that unlike other stores on island, New & Used will consider the crisis enveloping the CNMI right now and will keep prices down. "Our prices are very reasonable, so we don't plan to set up regular promotions," he said.

Future plans include converting the former Shark's Fin Restaurant in the same building into a full repository of secondhand items that people leaving island will drop off and New & Used will ultimately sell. At that point, Chen's New & Used will be retailing exclusively new items with the other store selling used stuff.

Chen said those wanting to sell their old stuff can still do so. They only need to bring the items to New & Used and he and his staff will assess its

value. After that, he and the seller would have to negotiate a price.

New & Used is open from Monday to Friday, 10am-8pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 9am to 7pm. For more information, call Chen at 287-9828.



MARK RABAGO

New & Used is located right across Kanoa Resort in the same building where Winchell's Donuts is.



MARK RABAGO

The newly opened store sells new beds, paintings, cabinets, and all types of chairs.



MARK RABAGO

Corner cabinets are also in abundant supply at the newly opened New & Used.



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2022 as follows:

Statement of Goals and Priorities [Fiscal Year 2022]

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 287-0652 [text message] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

**NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).*

Nation

As US COVID-19 death toll nears 600,000, racial gaps persist

(AP)—Jerry Ramos spent his final days in a California hospital, hooked to an oxygen machine with blood clots in his lungs from COVID-19, his 3-year-old daughter in his thoughts.

"I have to be here to watch my princess grow up," the Mexican American restaurant worker wrote on Facebook. "My heart feels broken into pieces."

Ramos didn't live to see it. He died Feb. 15 at age 32, becoming not just one of the nearly 600,000 Americans who have now perished in the coronavirus outbreak but another example of the outbreak's strikingly uneven and ever-shifting toll on the nation's racial and ethnic groups.

The approaching 600,000 mark, as tracked by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of Baltimore or Milwaukee. It is about equal to the number of Americans who died of cancer in 2019. And as bad as that is, the true toll is believed to be significantly higher.

President Joe Biden acknowledged the milestone Monday during his visit to Europe, saying that while new cases and deaths are dropping dramatically in the U.S., "there's still too many lives being lost," and "now is not the time to let our guard down."



In this April 22, 2020, file photo, pallbearers, who were among only 10 allowed mourners, walk the casket for internment at the funeral for Larry Hammond, who died from the coronavirus, at Mount Olivet Cemetery in New Orleans.

On the way to the latest round-number milestone, the virus has proved adept at exploiting inequalities in the U.S., according to an Associated Press data analysis.

In the first wave of fatalities, in April 2020, Black people were slammed, dying at rates higher than those of other

ethnic or racial groups as the virus rampaged through the urban Northeast and heavily African American cities like Detroit and New Orleans.

Last summer, during a second surge, Hispanics were hit the hardest, suffering an outsize share of deaths, driven by infections in Texas and Flori-

da. By winter, during the third and most lethal stage, the virus had gripped the entire nation, and racial gaps in weekly death rates had narrowed so much that whites were the worst off, followed closely by Hispanics.

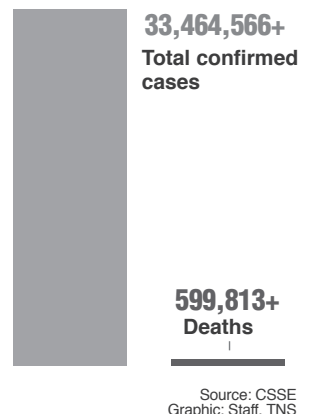
Now, even as the outbreak ebbs and more people get vac-

inated, a racial gap appears to be emerging again, with Black Americans dying at higher rates than other groups.

Overall, Black and Hispanic Americans have less access to medical care and are in poorer health, with higher rates of conditions such as diabetes

U.S. cases and deaths

As of 11 a.m. ET, June 14



and high blood pressure. They are also more likely to have jobs deemed essential, less able to work from home and more likely to live in crowded, multigenerational households, where working family members are apt to expose others to the virus.

Black people account for 15% of all COVID-19 deaths where race is known, while Hispanics represent 19%, whites 61% and Asian Americans 4%. Those figures are close to the groups' share of the U.S. population—Black people at 12%, Hispanics 18%, whites 60% and Asians 6%—but adjusting for age yields a clearer picture of the unequal burden.

Echoes of Breonna Taylor in shooting of Black man in Georgia

ATLANTA (AP)—Johnny Lorenzo Bolton was lying on a couch in his apartment near Atlanta when police serving a narcotics search warrant burst through the front door with guns drawn and no warning.

Bolton stood and at least one of the officers fired, sending two bullets into Bolton's chest. The 49-year-old Black man died from his injuries.

Details of the pre-dawn encounter in December—most of which come from a lawyer representing Bolton's fam-

ily—resemble a well-known case: the killing nine months earlier of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky. The 26-year-old Black woman also died after being shot by officers serving a drug search warrant at her apartment.

But unlike Taylor's, Bolton's name isn't mentioned in the ongoing nationwide discussions on racial injustice and police brutality that began after Taylor's death in March 2020 and that of George Floyd, who was killed by a Minneapolis po-

lice officer in May 2020.

Bolton's relatives and their lawyers wanted to gather information before drawing attention to his killing, they said. Frustrated in those efforts, attorneys sent a draft lawsuit to Cobb County officials in mid-April along with a letter threatening litigation.

"For almost six months, we gave them quiet," Bolton's sister Daphne Bolton said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "That lets me know that's not what gets a response."

US to transfer federal property for Hawaiian home lands

HONOLULU (AP)—The U.S. is giving Native Hawaiians surplus land as compensation for acres that were meant for homesteading but used instead by the federal government. The land transfer also attempts to help right wrongs against the Indigenous people of Hawaii, officials said Monday.

The 80 acres (32 hectares) in Ewa Beach formerly used for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center will eventually pro-

vide up to 400 homes while helping fulfill terms of a settlement authorized by Congress in 1995 to compensate Native Hawaiians for 1,500 acres (607 hectares) that were set aside for homelands but subsequently acquired and used by the federal government for other purposes, officials said.

U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's voice choked with emotion while making the announcement Monday.

"Yes, it's a happy day, but it's also a sad day because we remember the tragedy that befell the Native Hawaiians throughout their tumultuous history," said Haaland, the first Native American woman to lead a U.S. Cabinet agency. "Since that time, our country has learned a great deal. And now we are in an era where we recognize the importance of healing the generational traumas that caused pain and heartache."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mississippi: Ex-lawmaker killed near home of slain relative

WATER VALLEY, Miss. (AP)—A former Mississippi lawmaker was found shot to death during the weekend in a rural area outside the burned home where her sister-in-law was found dead after Christmas. Ashley Henley, 40, was a Republican who served in the state House from January 2016 to January 2020 from a district in DeSoto County. The North Mississippi Herald was first to report that Henley's body was found Sunday night in rural Yalobusha County, about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of DeSoto County. Her body was outside the home where the body of her sister-in-law Kristina Michelle Jones was found Dec. 26. The Herald published a photo of a homemade sign at the site with photos of Jones under the phrase, "I was murdered." Yalobusha County coroner Ronnie Stark told the Commercial Appeal on Monday that the time of Henley's death had not yet been determined. Stark told WMC-TV that Henley had been mowing grass at the home before she was killed.

Sheriff: Cashier fatally shot after argument over face masks

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—A grocery store cashier in the Atlanta area was killed and three other people were wounded Monday in a shooting that followed an argument over wearing face masks in the supermarket, authorities said. DeKalb County Sheriff Melody Maddox said the shooting occurred inside the Big Bear Supermarket in Decatur while several people were inside the business. She said a female cashier was killed when a man opened fire. "There was

some confrontation, argument—I'm not sure exactly what—in reference to the wearing of masks, at which time the subject pulled out a weapon and shot the cashier," Maddox said at a news conference. Maddox said she did not know the details of the argument. The customer was identified as Victor Lee Tucker, Jr., 30, of Palmetto, Georgia, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The agency said preliminary information indicates that Tucker got into an argument with the cashier and left the store without making his purchase, but he immediately returned inside. "Tucker walked directly back to the cashier, pulled out a handgun and shot her," the Georgia Bureau of Investigation wrote in the news release.

Two drown after rescuing children from Texas river

SEGUIN, Texas (AP)—Searchers recovered the body Monday of a second person drowned after he and a woman were swept away after rescuing two children from a Texas river, officials said. The body of Victor Villanueva, 30, was recovered Monday afternoon from the Guadalupe River about a mile downstream from where he went missing, Guadalupe Sheriff's Sgt. Kelly Mann said. The body of Casandra Kendrick, 22, was found Sunday night. Both vanished after saving two children struggling against the current in the popular swimming and tubing river near Seguin, about 35 miles (56.33 kilometers) northeast of San Antonio. Kendrick had helped Villanueva rescue the children and was trying to save Villanueva, but the water kept pushing them downriver, the sheriff's office said.

Asia

Myanmar puts Suu Kyi on trial

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi went on trial Monday on charges that many observers say are an attempt by the junta that deposed her to eliminate her as a political force, erase the country's democratic gains and cement the military's power.

Suu Kyi's prosecution poses yet another major setback for Myanmar, which had been making slow progress toward democracy when a February coup prevented elected lawmakers from her National League for Democracy party from taking office following last year's landslide victory.

Human Rights Watch said that the allegations being heard in a special court in the capital, Naypyitaw, are "bogus and politically motivated" with the intention of nullifying the victory and preventing Suu Kyi from running for office again.

"This trial is clearly the opening salvo in an overall strategy to neuter Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy party as a force that



In this Dec. 11, 2019, file photo, Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi waits to address judges of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. AP

can challenge military rule in the future," said Phil Robertson, the organization's deputy Asia director.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq, responding to a question on Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' reaction to the trial, said the U.N. position is clear: "We want her and all of the senior members of her administration to be freed."

"The secretary-general has called for and continues to call for a reversal of the Feb. 1 coup and the restoration of the legitimate government

of Myanmar, of whom Aung San Suu Kyi is a member," Haq said.

The army seized power on Feb. 1 before the new lawmakers could be seated, and arrested Suu Kyi, who held the post of special counselor, President Win Myint and other members of her government and ruling party. The Southeast Asian country went seemingly overnight from an emerging democracy to the international pariah it had been for decades while under military rule.

Duterte again delays abrogation of key security pact with the US

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday again suspended his decision to terminate a key defense pact with the United States, which he has asked to provide more aid and coronavirus vaccines in exchange for retaining the accord.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said, without elaborating, that Duterte suspended the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement for another six months to allow both sides to address his concerns. Terminating the pact would be a major blow to one of Ameri-

ca's oldest alliances in Asia.

Duterte's administration notified the U.S. government in February last year that it intended to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint combat training with Philippine troops and lays down the legal terms for their temporary stay.

The maneuvers involved thousands of American and Philippine military personnel in land, sea and air drills that often included live-fire exercises in pre-pandemic times.

The pact's termination would have taken effect after 180 days, but Duterte has repeatedly delayed the effectiveness of his decision.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana welcomed the president's decision, which he said would give the two governments more time to review the pact.

"Our bilateral cooperation with the U.S. is geared toward upholding our national interest and, to the extent necessary, to enhance the Philippines' defense capability," Lorenzana said.

HK 'concerned' about Chinese nuclear plant

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday that her government is "highly concerned" about the situation at a nearby nuclear power plant in mainland China, following media reports that the plant could be experiencing a leak.

Still, data from the Hong Kong Observatory and other departments showed that as of Monday night the radiation levels in the city were normal, leader Carrie Lam said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Data from the observatory showed that was still the case on Tuesday.

Lam's comments came a day after the French joint operator of the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province said it was dealing with a "performance issue" at the plant, but that it was operating within safety parameters. The company statement followed media reports that the plant could be experiencing a leak.

The plant is about 135 kilometers (85 miles) from Hong Kong, meaning a potential leak could impact the financial hub.

"With regards to foreign media reports about a nuclear

plant in Taishan, Guangzhou, the Hong Kong government is highly concerned," Lam said.

She said the city has systems in place to monitor radiation level and the government will inform the public of any developments. Lam also said that her government will reach out to authorities in Guangdong about the situation.

The Taishan plant is jointly owned by China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group and French multinational electric utility Électricité de France, the main owner of Framatome, which helps operate the plant.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey seeks US support to maintain troops in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday his country would need "diplomatic, logistic and financial assistance" from the United States if it were to maintain troops in Afghanistan to protect and run Kabul's international airport, following the withdrawal of other NATO troops. Speaking to reporters at the end of a series of meetings with NATO leaders on the sidelines of the alliance summit, Erdogan also said Turkey was seeking Pakistan and Hungary's involvement in a new mission in Afghanistan following the departure of the U.S.-led NATO force. Turkey is reported to have offered to guard the airport as questions remain on how security will be assured along major transport routes and at the airport, which is the main gateway to Kabul.

New Israel government vows change, but not for Palestinians

BEITA, West Bank (AP)—Israel's fragile new government has shown little interest in addressing the decades-old conflict with the Palestinians, but it may not have a choice. Jewish ultranationalists are already staging provocations aimed at splitting the coalition and bringing about a return to right-wing rule. In doing so, they risk escalating tensions with the Palestinians weeks after an 11-day Gaza war was halted

by an informal cease-fire. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's best hope for maintaining his ruling coalition — which consists of eight parties from across the political spectrum — will be to manage the conflict, the same approach favored by his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, for most of his 12-year rule. But that method failed to prevent three Gaza wars and countless smaller eruptions.

US, Russia envoys discuss Iran nuclear deal ahead of summit

VIENNA (AP)—Delegations from Russia and the United States involved in nuclear negotiations with Iran held talks in Vienna on Monday, two days ahead of a summit meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The United States is not directly involved in the Vienna negotiations but has regular contacts with participating diplomats. Efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear containment deal for Iran are a rare topic of collaboration between the two global adversaries. Mikhail Ulyanov, a senior diplomat who headed the Russian delegation at the meeting in Vienna, called the talks with U.S. counterparts "fruitful." "Our dialogue in Vienna seems to be proof that the two countries can maintain business-like cooperation on issues of common interest, non-proliferation in this particular case," Ulyanov wrote in a tweet.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mathias Daniel Mahora, Jr.

Sunrise: June 1, 1985 Sunset: June 6, 2021

Born on June 1st, 1985, †Mathias, who was affectionately known as "Jun", at home or "Matt" to close relatives and friends, was granted his angel wings to fly on to his new home in Paradise on the morning of June 6, 2021, at the age of 36. He was born on the island of Saipan, NMI, raised in the village of Tanapag and was the youngest of six siblings. He lived in Houston, Texas for 14 years and was the loving and caring father to his two daughters. In the latter part of his life, beginning in 2019, he relocated to Washington state, where he spent the rest of his life with his sister, Paula and her family. He was truly loved by his immediate family and will always be remembered for his great sense of humor, kindness, and unconditional love for his family, but most of all his caring heart and kindness towards all who needed his help.

In his new life, he will be greeted and reunited with his parents, †Mathias Daniel Mahora & †Virginia Norita Mahora, his sister, †Lima A. Mahora, his paternal grandparents, †Daniel & †Ivied Soulik Mahora, his maternal grandparents, †Pedro N. & †Victorina Limes Norita.

His precious memories, love and laughter will forever live on in the hearts of his daughters, Matiana and Zuliana; his sisters, Esther N. Mahora; Paula N. Mahora & Redson R. Herwin, their children/grandchildren; his brothers, Al N. & Leslie V. Mahora and children; Bert L. & Arlene S. Laniyo; reared siblings, Anna L. Norita, Leonard N. and Erwin H. Fred, Jr.; his uncles, aunts and extended families: Children of the late †Manuel L. & †Estrella I. Norita; Vicente L. & Sylveria C. Norita and children; Linda R. Norita and children (†Pedro L. Norita); Donald L. Norita; Remedio L. Norita; Consolacion N. & Alvin C. Cepeda and children; Dina Ellen N. & Nolasko N. Kaliga and son, Travis; Alice S. Igitol and children (†Victorino N. Igitol); and Erwin H. Fred.

†Mathias will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, close relatives and friends who became family.

Mass of intention for the repose of his soul is offered nightly at 6pm on:

Tanapag Church - Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat
San Roque Church - Tues & Thurs

On Sunday, mass is at 0930am at Tanapag Church.

†Mathias will be with us for the last time on June 16th, 2021, at the Edwards Memorial Funeral Home, 11020 S. Tacoma Way, Lakewood, Washington. Visitations and last respects are welcome at 9am. Memorial service is at 11am.

Thank you, Ghilisow and Si Yuus Maase for all your thoughts and prayers.



*If roses grow in Heaven Lord,
Please pick a bunch for us.
Place them in our brother's arms,
and tell him they're from us.
Tell him that we miss and love him
and when he turns to smile,
place a kiss upon his cheek
and hold him for a while.
Because remembering him is easy.
We do it every day.
But there is an ache within our hearts
That will never go away.*

Good Housekeeping

How can I minimize water damage?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ASK ANGI

With the advent of spring and the rainy season, many parts of the country are heading into the wettest part of the year. Water damage—whether from rain, flooding or a plumbing leak—can be swiftly damaging and quite expensive. The average water damage restoration job costs about \$3,100. Two efforts can save serious amounts of money: preventative maintenance and fast cleanup. Here’s a rundown of

how to protect yourself.

Prevent the leaks

Your most effective tool against a flood or leak is being ready ahead of time. Keep your gutters and downspouts clean, as they can often contribute to a leaky basement. Check your appliances regularly for leaks and fix any problems promptly. Even a very small leak can cause tremendous unforeseen damage. When you replace appliances, make sure you replace the hoses as well. A shiny new

washing machine won’t help you if a brittle old hose still connects it to the wall. Consider installing water detection or floodstop devices near water heater, sump pumps, washing machines and other appliances at risk for leaks. These inexpensive devices shut off the water supply and sound an alarm when they get wet. If your basement starts to flood or a washing machine hose bursts, they could save you precious hours and hundreds in repairs. Keep an eye on your water bill. Sometimes, a sudden



Swift response is crucial to minimizing the effect of water damage.

DREAMTIME/TNS

6 ways to make your own fire pit

By SAM SCHIPANI
BANGOR DAILY NEWS, MAINE

Summer is here, and nothing makes a summer evening better than sitting around a backyard fire pit, roasting marshmallows and telling stories. The demand for outdoor decor is higher than ever, though, and finding a fire pit at the store may be difficult. Plus, there’s something rewarding about making your own.

That’s right: you can make your own fire pit with a few simple materials and a little bit of skill.

Here are six video tutorials that will guide you through the steps of making a fire pit for your own backyard.

Easy fire pit

This fire pit tutorial from YouTube user StatUpBox is perfect for anyone with only beginner technical knowledge hoping to make a fire pit on the cheap, with both \$60 and \$80 options for this simple stone

fire pit. Plus, the instructions are riddled with corny jokes for your viewing pleasure.

No-weld steel fire pit

Steel is a great, long-lasting material for fire pits, but welding can be intimidating. Luckily, YouTube user GreenShortz DIY can show you how to make a scrap steel fire pit with no welding required, only a few simple tools that even the most novice metalworker can get behind.

Concrete fire bowl

Concrete fire bowls are fire pits’ smaller, sleeker cousin. YouTube user DIY Creators demonstrates how to easily make your own from plastic salad bowls—yes, you read that right—and concrete mix that will make your backyard space look cozy and chic.

Concrete table fire pit

If you want to take your fire pit decor to the next level, check out this tutorial from YouTube user DIY Huntress on how to make a concrete table with a built-in

fire pit (or cooler for icy drinks, if that’s what you prefer).

Washing machine drum fire pit

If you have a washing machine that has kicked the bucket, YouTube user Ollari’s shows you how to transform it into a cute, functional fire pit along with some other up-cycled materials.

Upcycled propane fire pit

This tutorial from YouTube user Modern Self Reliance requires some technical skills and a willingness to hunt for scrap parts. Still, this upcycled propane fire pit is perfect if you are looking for a fun challenge with great results.

Making a DIY fire pit might require some effort, but once you have your friends or family huddled around a glowing fire on a beautiful summer night, that extra effort will feel worth it.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nothing makes a summer evening better than sitting around a backyard fire pit, roasting marshmallows and telling stories.

jump in usage can give away a mystery leak.

Clean up fast

As bad as water damage can be up front, it’s compounded by mold. When you leave standing water for any length of time, it allows mold to grow—even in places that might not be visibly wet!—and causes additional damage to surfaces. Water does its first round of damage within minutes, but after the first hour it can swell, add unpleasant odors and spread humidity all around the house. After several hours pass, wood and other surfaces can become unsalvageable.

The first thing to do in a leak emergency is shut off the water source. This is an easy one to miss in the course of a

disaster! But obviously, if you have a water leak, you need to shut it down as quickly as possible. Find the shutoff valve for the fixture or pipe causing the leak and close it off. If you can’t find or reach it, use the main shutoff valve, which is usually beneath your home or near the water meter. Do whatever you can to mitigate damage right away. Use tarps and buckets to intercept water. Move furniture away from the water. As soon as the water stops flowing, start removing stagnant water with buckets and towels. Once the immediate danger has passed, your first call should be to your insurance company. You want to begin documenting a claim, and they

might have preferred contractors to help with the work. If it’s after hours or you can’t reach a claims rep, contact a water remediation company directly anyway. Those first minutes and hours count. These pros can assess and repair any damage caused by the flooding. They will know how to determine whether there’s any risk of long-term damage or mold growth below the surface – and how to stop it. While you’re at it, stay away from electronics or appliances until you’ve verified they’re safe to use.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskAngi and we’ll try to answer them in a future column.

DESIGN RECIPES

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Brighten up your spring with these colorful tips

With spring brings certain colors. Perhaps yellow and lilac come to mind. These days, unexpected colors and pairings are considered modern and fresh. Many of the colors are warm surprises but still on trend and modern.

Here are some spring color tips.

1. Consider mustard tones instead of traditional pale shades of yellow.
2. Mix different shades of color together, such as soft pink paired with a hot, bold pink.
3. Implement warm colors for spring. Go for deeper shades and tones.
4. Pair unexpected complementary colors together such as orange and blue.
5. Use neutral base colors to build your color palette such as black and white.
6. Use portable design pieces such as throws, pillows and artwork to create your color palette.

7. Use greenery. Greenery can go a long way to add a fresh feel to nearly any space.
8. Consider pairing brighter pale colors with foundation colors such as black, chocolate or taupe.
9. Choose citrus colors, such as orange, green and yellow, if you’re looking for a general-neutral color grouping.
10. Blend art into your space as a way to infuse spirited spring colors into your space.

The beauty of black decor

Black is a color that is often overlooked. Neutral, bold and luxurious, the color black can be used either as an accent, a pop or an overall statement. Not sure how to introduce or use black in your space? Here are some tips to help you take the plunge!

1. Introduce black into your space through the use of artwork or mirrors.
2. Consider painting trims and door jambs black instead

- of traditional white when looking to add a bold statement of luxury.
3. Use portable design elements such as throws, pillows and accent pieces.
4. Use black lampshades instead of lighter colors or white when seeking to elevate your lighting look.
5. Finish unexpected areas in black, such as cabinetry and countertops.
6. Love the look of lacquer? Consider using black lacquer for elements such as sideboards and kitchen islands.
7. Add texture! From area rugs to toss pillows, sheepskin and faux fur, these tactile accessories in black can add an unexpected yet luxurious element.
8. Pair black with brass or gold. This color combination remains modern and on trend.
9. Mix black with wood. The combination often feels warm and elegant.
10. Repeat black throughout a space as pops of colors and accents.

Life & Style

Jane Austen family link to abolition movement comes to light

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While Jane Austen admirers savor the wit and romance of “Pride and Prejudice” and her other enduring novels, scholars ferret out details of Austen’s life and times, including a family link to slavery that surfaced 50 years ago.

The effort to place the writer in the social and political context of her day has yielded a new and contrasting discovery: A favorite brother was part of the 19th-century

abolition movement.

Devoney Looser, an Arizona State University professor and author of “The Making of Jane Austen,” unearthed the Rev. Henry Thomas Austen’s attendance at the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, which drew some 500 delegates.

“I was stunned to find that fact,” Looser said in an interview. She first detailed her research in an essay for The Times Literary Supplement.

“The family’s commitments and actions changed profoundly, from known complicity in colonial slavery to previously unnoticed anti-slavery activism,” Looser wrote. “Henry became a next-generation Austen publicly supporting a political commitment to abolish slavery across the globe.”

Looser’s essay also addresses patriarch George Austen’s previously revealed ties to another family’s West Indian sugar plantation, calling them “very real” but “both under-de-



AP
This April 10, 2018 image released by Arizona State University shows ASU professor Devoney Looser at her home in Phoenix, Ariz.

scribed and overstated.”

The latest research was welcomed by Patricia A. Matthew, an associate professor of English at Montclair State University who focuses on literature of the period that encompasses Austen. Her courses include British abolitionist literature.

“I’m always excited about new information about the

authors I teach,” Matthew said. While it doesn’t change her view of Austen’s work—“I don’t believe that I’m reading someone who’s actively engaged in debates about the slave trade”—it could resound with Austen’s most devoted admirers, sometimes called “Janeites.”

“I think they are having a kind of reckoning in how

they think about not just Austen, but the Regency period,” said Matthew, referring to the British era of the early 1800s. “It raises all manner of interesting questions about how they understand this author.”

The six major novels that Jane Austen wrote before her death at 41 in July 1817 are sharply observed works

about human nature and relationships, not anchored in current events. There is a reference to slavery in “Mansfield Park,” and a conversation between two characters in “Emma” includes mentions of abolition and the sale of “human flesh.”

As for Austen’s own beliefs, Looser said, “we know from her letters that she refers to having loved the writings of a prominent white abolitionist, Thomas Clarkson. So we know that she read and cared about issues of race and racial injustice.”

A diary entry from another Austen brother, Francis, called it regrettable that any trace of slavery “should be found to exist in countries dependent on England, or colonised by her subjects.” His opinion was not made public until the early 1900s.

Britain outlawed the slave trade in 1807 and made slavery illegal in 1833 with the exception of some territories. Subsequent legislation outlawed it entirely.

Justin Bieber, Lil Baby to headline Made in America festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber and Lil Baby are set to headline Jay-Z’s Made in America festival in Philadelphia.

Organizers announced Monday that Megan Thee Stallion, Doja Cat, Roddy Ricch, Bobby Shmurda and A\$AP Ferg will also perform at the two-day event on Sept. 4-5 over Labor Day Weekend.

Last year’s festival was canceled because of the coronavirus. This year’s festival, held on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is celebrating its 10th anniversary and will benefit the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania and the REFORM Alliance.

Other performers include Moneybagg Yo, Lil Durk, Freddie Gibbs, Tinashe, Baby Keem, Morray, 42 Dugg and EST Gee.

Paris Jackson says paparazzi caused her long-term trauma

NEW YORK (AP)—Paris Jackson, stopping by “Red Table Talk” for a frank discussion about living under the media glare, reveals she suffers long-term anxiety and trauma from enduring countless camera clicks by paparazzi since she was a child.

“I experience auditory hallucinations sometimes with camera clicks and severe paranoia and have been going to therapy for a lot of things but that included,” Jackson says. “I’ll hear a trash bag rustling

and flinch in panic.” She adds: “I think it’s standard PTSD.”

Jackson, the daughter of Michael Jackson, has a one-on-one discussion with fellow paparazzi target and friend Willow Smith on Wednesday’s edition of the online talk show that airs on Facebook Watch at 9 a.m. PDT/noon EDT.

During the show’s introduction, Smith says she met Jackson on the set of mom Jada Pinkett Smith’s TV show “Hawthorne.” Smith and Jackson soon forged a bond over

growing up with parents in the spotlight, and over love of music, modeling, and issues like mental health, sexuality and body image. One way Jackson says she keeps some privacy is by asking people in her home to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Jackson, who has dated men and women, tells Smith that while there is tension with some of her family members over her sexuality, she has leaned on her brothers—Prince and Prince Mi-

chael II—and longtime family friend Omer Bhatti.

“They’ve always been super-supportive,” she says, noting that to better connect with his sister, Prince Jackson in high school joined a student-run club that unites LGBTQ+ and allied youth. “Not a lot of people can say they have siblings that support them like that.”

In 2020, Paris Jackson and then-boyfriend Gabriel Glenn—who formed the acoustic duo The Soundflow-ers—had a docu-series on

Facebook Watch called “Unfiltered,” which provided a glimpse into her private life. Jackson revealed self-harm and suicide attempts in her testimonials, and said music was a way to channel her pain. She released her debut solo album “Wilted” in November.

“Red Table Talk” has recently made headlines with interviews with Olivia Jade Gianulli, Kelly Osbourne, and when Pinkett Smith and her husband, Will Smith, discussed their marriage.

Man finds little support from so-called partner

DEAR ABBY: I’m a gay man who has been in an on-again/off-again relationship for three years. My partner still lives at home with his mother. He has never left the home, aside from a four-month period when he and his mom weren’t getting along.

My issue is, aside from never fully committing, my partner, “Damien,” seems to always find a way to abandon me when I hit a rough patch. I lose my job and I’m low on money? He yells at me and leaves. And he manages to not return until I’m “back on my feet.”

When the coronavirus hit and I had all my bills paid but nothing to eat, I finally had to say, “Hey, can you get me something?” We go to a burger place, the line’s long and he complains nonstop about the wait. We leave and go to my place to hang out. Then he leaves and calls me and talks about what he’s going to eat. I hang up.

Before, when I was homeless, even though he doesn’t have a place of his own, he never offered any help. If I say, “I know you’re really guarded with your money,” he becomes enraged. And when he hears about my difficulties, he talks down to me and mocks the situation I am in. He attributes his never leaving home to his family helping him and caring about him. The fact that I’m not in a situation like his implies

my family doesn’t care. Can you help?

A LOT WRONG IN TEXAS

DEAR A LOT WRONG: I’ll try. It’s time you recognized that Damien is NOT your “partner.” Partners HELP each other when they are in trouble. The sooner you lose this person, the sooner you will start to feel better. Damien is all about Damien. His character is fully formed. You can’t change him, and neither can I. Leaving Damien may help you become more independent—and that’s a good thing. Trust me on that.

DEAR ABBY: I love my wife dearly. We’ve been married for 21 years. I’m frustrated with how she dresses for work and when we go out. Her idea of fashion is wearing clothes that are too large in size for her. I don’t like going out in public with her when she dresses that way. Granted, she put on some weight after our third child, but she still has a nice, shapely figure. I have seen women with similar body shapes who wear closer-fitting clothes, and they look great. How can I convey that her style is unflattering without upsetting her?

FRUSTRATED WITH FRUMPY

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your wife may dress the way she

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



does because she’s self-conscious about her weight or simply because she thinks loose-fitting clothes are more comfortable. Because you feel they don’t flatter her, start by asking why she’s dressing the way she does. Tell her you think she is beautiful and that the items she is choosing don’t do justice to her “nice, shapely figure.” You might even volunteer to go with her to help her choose some things, if she’s interested. But if she isn’t, let the subject drop because, ultimately, she’s going to wear whatever she wants.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

Pastimes

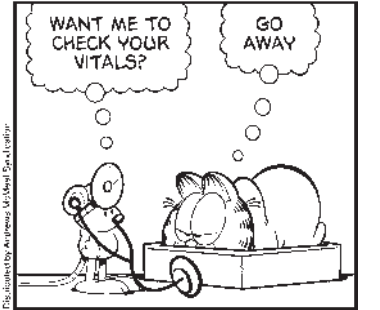
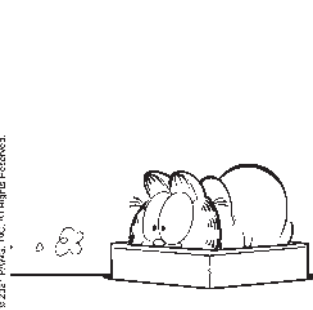
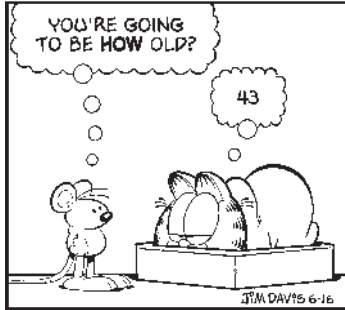
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



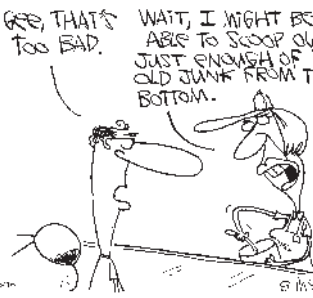
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

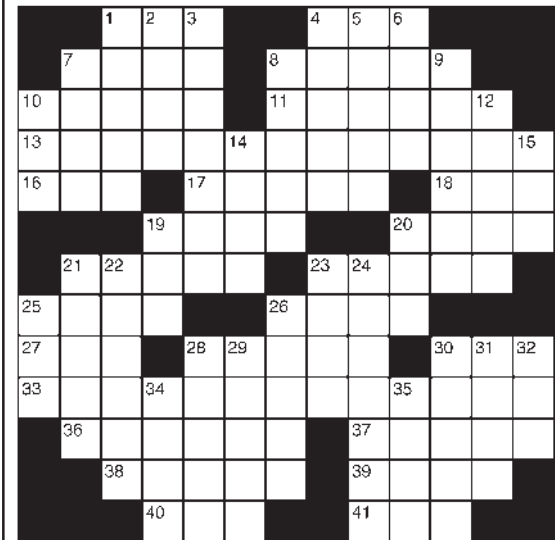
1 Favorite rival
27 Luau dish
28 World record?
30 ISP alter-native
7 Jai — native
8 College Settles in for
VIPs the long haul
10 — the long haul
Holmes (Sherlock's sleuthing sister)
11 Catch Houston
13 Pays for everyone's drinks
16 Request bit
17 Angry Parched
18 Sundial Coifs
numeral
19 Word of warning
20 Florence's river
21 Reuben cheese
23 "No more for me, thanks"
25 Plot unit

DOWN

15 Life story
19 Conk out
20 Donkey
21 Troop member
22 Squirm in pain
23 Infamous tsar
24 Interpret incorrectly
25 PC program
26 Forever, in poetry
28 Grace of "Will & Grace"
29 Rock opera by The Who
30 Extinct birds
31 Goblet feature
32 Leary's drug
34 Transmit
35 Aware of

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abby Elliott, 34; John Cho, 49; Laurie Metcalf, 66; Bill Cobbs, 87.

Happy Birthday: A detail will play an important role in the way things unfold. Leave nothing to chance, and don't take on more than you can handle. Plan every action thoughtfully and with enough confidence that you reach your goal regardless of the obstacles you encounter along the way. Stand tall, do what you do best and live within your means. Less fuss, less muss. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 23, 25, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Study, learn, gather information and head in a direction that will bring you stability and a sense of accomplishment. Take better care of your health and well-being. A change at home should ease stress, not create turbulence. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Help a cause or someone you love. Reaching out will make you feel good and create a difference. Revisit your financial situation. Contemplate changes to the way you handle or earn your money. A creative outlet will lift your spirits. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Control your emotions, and avoid wasting time or making a situation you face at home worse. Be upfront, and take pride in what you say and do. Learn from the experience and keep moving forward. Focus on personal growth and physical improvement. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An open, receptive approach to situations involving friends, relatives or neighbors will

help bring about positive change. A suggestion someone makes will give insight into a financial or legal problem you face. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay close attention to what others ask you to do and the contribution expected if you want to maintain your position. Don't make hasty decisions that conflict with promises you made to someone you love. Strive for balance and integrity. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think twice before you say something you may regret. Overreacting to what others do or say won't help you get your way. Channel your energy into positive change that makes you feel good about who you are and how you look. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do your best to help others. Offer suggestions, lend a helping hand or donate. Gather information and put what you learn to good use. Look for a way to lower your overhead, and it will put your mind at ease. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend quality time with someone who offers encouragement and makes you feel good about yourself. An opportunity to put your skills to better use will also lead to profits that will help you get a handle on your financial situation. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think before giving someone the chance to push or manipulate you to do something unrealistic. Avoid indulgence and instability. Focus on fitness, finances and family, and you'll feel good at the end of the day. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't sit back; put your plan in motion. Embrace the people who share your interests and concerns; you'll gain insight into new and exciting possibilities. A positive change at home will bring you closer to someone you love. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do. When one door closes, look for another way to reach your goal. Intelligence and stamina will be your saving graces. Refuse to let what others do stop you from following your heart. ***



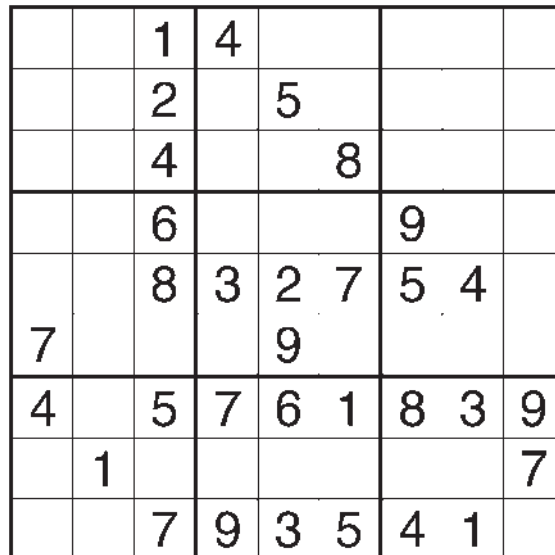
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Unrestrained behavior will lead to problems. Nurture meaningful relationships, and pay close attention to how you take care of your physical and emotional well-being. Don't believe everything you hear; emotional manipulation is apparent. Do more and say less. ***
Birthday Baby: You are emotional, generous and proactive. You are original and outspoken.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

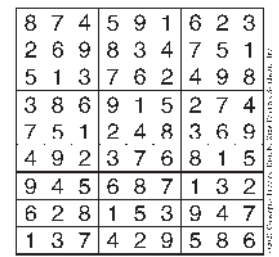
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ***

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer



Difficulty Level **

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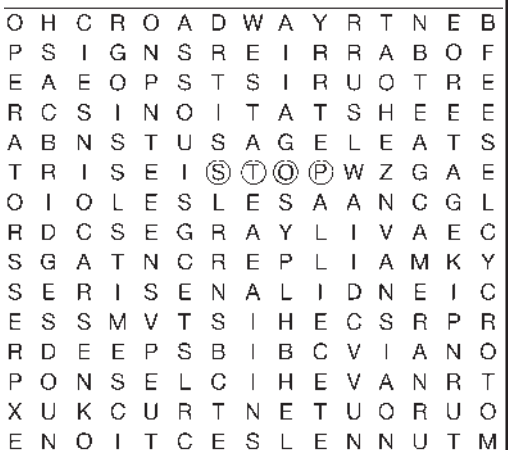
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TOLL HIGHWAYS

Solution: 10 letters



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Barriers, Billing, Both, Bridges, Camera, Cars, Cash, Charges, Coins, Debit, Entry, Express, Fees, Freeway, Gate, Lanes, Mail, Motorcycles, Municipalities, Operator, Passes, Plaza, Posts, Revenue, Roadway, Route, Section, Sensor, Signs, Speed, State, Station, Stop, Time, Tourists, Travelers, Truck, Tunnels, Turnpike, Usage, Vans, Vehicles
Yesterdays Answer: Enclosure
Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Young leads Hawks' rally past Sixers with Embiid hurting



ATLANTA (AP)—Trae Young tried to reassure Atlanta coach Nate McMillan after it became clear the Hawks point guard was hiding a sore shoulder.

McMillan had no complaints after Young lifted the Hawks to a crucial win over top-seeded Philadelphia.

Young overcame a cold start to score 25 points, including a floater that gave Atlanta the lead with 1:17 remaining, and the Hawks rallied to beat the 76ers 103-100 on Monday night, tying the Eastern Conference semifinal at 2-2.

Young's right shoulder was taped, which McMillan saw for the first time when the point guard took off his warmups before the game.

"He kind of gave me a look like he didn't know about it," Young said. "I told him 'We're fine, we're good, let's go win.'"

Philly blew an 18-point lead and may have bigger concerns: Big man Joel Embiid spent time in the locker room in the second quarter and was 0-for-12 from the field in the second half.

"Even before I went back to the locker room I felt like I didn't have it," Embiid said.

Embiid is playing with torn cartilage in his right knee.

"I guess it's already known," Embiid said, confirming the knee was what caused him to leave the bench. "There's no need to explain myself anymore. I'm just trying to do the best I can."

Embiid finished with 17 points and 21 rebounds.

"I've coached a lot of games where guys haven't had it all night but they're still your guys," coach Doc Rivers said, adding he would take Embiid "whether you've got it going or not."

Philadelphia guard Seth



Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young (11) reacts after he scores during the second half of Game 4 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday, June 14, 2021, in Atlanta.

team's first 11 playoff games and the first since Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant with the Lakers in 2003.

Jerry West, who watched Monday's game from court-side, and Elgin Baylor were the other duo with the 1962 Lakers.

Marcus Morris added 24 points and went 5 of 6 on 3-pointers for fourth-seeded Los Angeles. Game 5 is Wednesday night in Salt Lake City.

Donovan Mitchell led Utah with 37 points, making him the first player since Golden State's Stephen Curry in 2019 to have six straight 30-point games in the playoffs.

Joe Ingles added 19 and Bojan Bogdanovic 18 for the top-seeded Jazz, who has lost back-to-back playoff games for the first time this year.

Utah won the tip and scored on Bogdanovic's dunk before the Clippers scored the next 10 points and never looked back as Leonard had five points during the early run.

LA's largest lead in the first quarter was 19 as it was 6 of 12 on 3-pointers and forced six Utah turnovers.

Morris hit a pair of free throws with 5:21 remaining to put the Clippers up 51-22, which was their largest lead of the night. They had a 24-point advantage at halftime (68-44), which is tied for their second biggest in postseason franchise history.

LA led 105-85 with 6:48 remaining before the Jazz countered with a 17-7 run to cut it in half with 2:10 left.

Curry said Embiid "was pressing maybe a little bit."

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 22 points for the Hawks, and John Collins had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Young made only 8 of 26 shots but had 18 assists, matching his career high.

"This team never gives up, no matter what the score is," Young said. "I love the way we fight and I'm proud of our team tonight."

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Philadelphia.

Tobias Harris scored 20 points for the Sixers and Curry had 17, missing a potential tying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

The Sixers led 60-42 late in the first half but Atlanta chipped away in the third quarter. Bogdanovic opened the final period with a 3-point-

er to give Atlanta its first lead of the half, 83-82.

Young's floater with 1:17 remaining gave Atlanta a 99-98 lead, and his two free throws pushed the advantage to three.

The Hawks hung on from there, catching a break when Embiid missed a layup and the Sixers knocked the ball out of bounds with 7.8 seconds remaining.

Young missed his first five shots from the field and had his right shoulder wrapped with a heating pad when he sat on the bench early in the second quarter.

"When he took off his warmup, it was the first I saw that," McMillan said. "Obviously there's something going on with his shoulder but he hasn't complained. He was

missing some shots that he normally makes ... but he stayed with it. He's a tough kid."

Young's frustration showed when he complained after being called for a foul on Embiid in the second quarter, leading to a technical.

Embiid made a 3 after his time in the locker room. But he finished 4 of 20 from the floor—hardly the production the Sixers need from their star, who shot 51.3% in the regular season.

Ben Simmons was called for a flagrant-one foul after he hit Collins to stop Collins' attempt for a breakaway jam with 3:24 remaining in the third. LOS

Clippers 118, Jazz 104

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leon-

ard and Paul George each scored 31 points—the second straight game they have both had over 30 points—and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Utah Jazz 118-104 on Monday night to even their Western Conference second-round series at two games apiece.

Leonard provided the highlight of the night with his dunk late in the second quarter. He got the ball just beyond the 3-point line, drove past Royce O'Neale in the lane and then slammed it over Derrick Favors to give the Clippers a 62-38 lead with 1:24 remaining in the second quarter.

Leonard and George have each scored at least 20 points in all 11 games this postseason. They are just the third duo in NBA history to do that in a

DENVER (AP)—Jae Crowder received all sorts of quizzical text messages for his decision to sign with the Phoenix Suns in the offseason.

What was he thinking? The Suns hadn't been to the playoffs in a decade. The West was stacked.

"I look like a genius, huh?" cracked Crowder, who took his talents to the Suns after helping Miami reach the NBA Finals last season. "I knew the type of group these guys were. I felt like they were hungry. They wanted to do some special things and I wanted to be a part of it."

Behind the brilliant backcourt of Chris Paul and Devin Booker and steady contributions from the likes of Crowder, the Suns are roaring into the Western Conference Finals for the first time

Suns rising at the right time, roar into conference finals

since 2010, the last year they reached the postseason.

The Suns completed a four-game sweep of the short-handed Denver Nuggets with a 125-118 win Sunday night in a testy game in which MVP Nikola Jokic was ejected in the third quarter for a flagrant foul on Cameron Payne.

It was the seventh straight win for Phoenix—the longest playoff winning streak in team history.

After bouncing LeBron James and the defending champion Lakers in six games during the first round, the Suns made even quicker work of Jokic and the Nuggets.

Now, they get to rest up before playing either top-seeded Utah or the Los Angeles Clippers. The Jazz lead that series

2-1 heading into Game 4 on Monday night in Los Angeles. Phoenix was 1-2 against the Clippers in the regular season and 3-0 against the Jazz.

"Everybody at this point is banged up and can use that kind of recovery," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. "We earned it and we want to take advantage of it."

"But right now, I'm not even thinking about that. I'm just happy about what these guys have accomplished."

Crowder has become quite a postseason catalyst, with his teams going 22-9 over his last 31 playoff games. Before the 2020 season, his teams were 20-31 in playoff games.

"Very impressive how locked in we are as a unit," Crowder said. "We have great

leadership. We have great coaching putting us in a position to succeed right now."

"I definitely feel like we're connected as a group and it shows."

Right after the final horn, Paul and Booker—who combined for 71 points—made their way through the post-series handshakes and hugs near the Nuggets logo.

Waiting on the side was Williams. He shared a heartfelt embrace with each one.

Williams is tight with Paul, from their coach/guard time together in New Orleans. They have a strong bond away from the court, too, and Paul was there for Williams when Williams lost his wife from injuries in a car accident in 2016.

"Monty has been through

things in his life that a lot of people don't necessarily come back from," said Paul, who scored 13 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter. "Basketball aside, he means so much to me and my family. So to be on this journey with him and to see it paying off is nice. We're a lot alike. We stay locked in. I don't feel good until the buzzer sounds. Monty's the same way. When the series is over, and the game is over, it's nice to share those moments."

The last time the Suns were this far was 2010 behind a cast that included the likes of Amar'e Stoudemire, Steve Nash, Jason Richardson and Grant Hill. They fell to Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers 4-2.

"The emotions are happy,

grateful, tired, relieved," Williams said of advancing to the conference finals. "It's one of those moments for me that quite frankly I never thought I'd have a chance to experience. For me, I have a level of gratitude I can't even explain."

To share it with Paul means that much more.

"Chris has meant so much to my career, he's meant so much to my life," Williams said. "The darkest moment of my life Chris was right there and one of the highlights of my career, he's right there."

"That's where it is right now. I'm not really good at waxing eloquent about how I feel other than just telling you I just feel grateful for this opportunity and to be on this team and in this moment and have a chance to move forward."

Indians extend Orioles' road woes, win 4-3



CLEVELAND
(AP)—José

Ramírez picked up a pair of RBIs—made possible by Baltimore blunders in the field—and the Cleveland Indians extended the Orioles' road losing streak to 16 games with a 4-3 victory on Monday night.

Ramírez drove in a run off Dean Kremer (0-6) in the first inning when Baltimore left fielder DJ Stewart slipped in the wet grass going after a routine fly. Ramírez added an RBI double in the sixth after Orioles second baseman Stevie Wilkerson dropped his foul pop, giving him another try.

Indians rookie reliever Nick Sandlin (1-0) picked up his first career win by striking out three of the five batters he faced. Emmanuel Clase worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his 10th save.

Rays 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Austin Meadows, Brandon Lowe and Randy Arozarena homered and Tampa Bay beat Chicago for its fourth straight win.

Tampa Bay improved to 43-24, 1 1/2 games ahead of the White Sox for the best record in the majors. The Rays have won seven of eight.

Tampa Bay starter Tyler Glasnow left after four innings with right elbow inflammation. The 6-foot-8 right-hander allowed two runs on three hits. J.P. Feyereisen (3-2) got the win and Pete Fairbanks pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Lance Lynn (7-2) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings as he lost for the first time since April 15.

Rockies 3, Padres 2

In Denver, Austin Gomber continued his dominance at hitter-friendly Coors Field with eight shutout innings, and Colorado held on to beat scuffling San Diego.

Gomber (6-5) improved to 3-1 at home, where he hasn't allowed an earned run in 23 1/3 innings.

Gomber held the Padres to three hits and didn't walk a batter.

San Diego has lost 10 of its last 14 and has scored just nine runs in its last seven losses. Dinelson Lamet (1-2) took the loss.

Trent Grisham hit a two-run homer in the Padres ninth off Daniel Bard. But he then retired Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. to earn his ninth save.

Mets 5, Cubs 2

In New York, David Peterson pitched one-hit ball over six innings for his first win in two months, and New York beat Chicago at home for the first



time in exactly four years.

Dominic Smith homered for the Mets, who stopped Chicago's five-game winning streak in the opener of a four-game series between NL division leaders. New York snapped a seven-game skid at Citi Field against the Cubs that began on May 31, 2018.

Peterson (2-5) allowed just a third-inning single to Eric Sogard—then picked him off second to end the inning—and a leadoff walk in the sixth to Sergio Alcantara. Edwin Diaz earned his 13th save by striking out the side in a perfect ninth.

Jake Arrieta (5-7) allowed four runs in five innings.

Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

In Boston, Rafael Devers hit a line drive off the Green Monster in the bottom of the ninth inning after Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered to tie it in the top half, and Boston beat Toronto.

Matt Barnes (3-1) was two strikes away from finishing off a combined three-hit shutout when Guerrero homered 451 feet onto Lansdowne Street to tie the game. It was his major league-leading 22nd home run of the season.

But Alex Verdugo, who drove in Boston's first run, and J.D. Martinez singled off Rafael Dolis (1-3) to lead off the bottom of the ninth. One out later, Devers banged one off the wall in left-center.

Nathan Eovaldi took a one-hitter into the seventh. He held the Blue Jays to three hits and a walk in all, while striking out four in 6 2/3 innings.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2

In Washington, Kyle Schwarber

homered again to snap a seventh-inning tie and drove in two runs as Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Jon Lester pitched 5 1/3 solid innings to help the Nationals win for the third time in four games.

Schwarber's homer was his fourth in three days. The Nationals moved him to the lead-off spot Saturday in the opener of a doubleheader. He led off that game with a home run, hit two more on Sunday and launched the go-ahead shot this time against reliever Clay Holmes (2-2).

Kyle Finnegan (3-2) struck out two in a hitless inning. Brad Hand pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save in 14 tries.

Reds 10, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Vladimir Gutiérrez and three relievers combined on a four-hitter with 12 strikeouts, and Cincinnati beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight win.

Joey Votto and Aristides Aquino each hit a two-run homer for the Reds. Votto went 2 for 4, scored twice and drove in three runs.

Gutiérrez (3-1) gave up two runs in six innings to win his third straight start in his fourth career appearance.

Eric Lauer (1-3) allowed four runs and five hits in five innings.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 2

In St. Louis, Tyler O'Neill doubled home the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and scuffling St. Louis beat Miami to halt a three-game slide.

Adam Wainwright tossed six effective innings and Paul

Goldschmidt had two hits and an RBI as the Cardinals won for only the third time in 14 games.

Dylan Floro (2-4), the fifth Miami pitcher, gave up O'Neill's go-ahead double.

Giovanny Gallegos (4-1) pitched a hitless inning and Alex Reyes retired the side in the ninth for his 17th save.

Tigers 10, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Detroit starter Matthew Boyd and reliever Alex Lange both exited with injuries and the Tigers still ended a three-game losing streak, beating Kansas City.

Willi Castro, Robbie Grossman and Niko Goodrum homered for Detroit. Miguel Cabrera got three hits and drove in two runs, with his RBI single keying a four-run first inning.

Boyd departed in the third because of discomfort in his left arm. Lange left after recording just one out in the fifth with an unspecified problem.

Royals starter Brad Keller (6-6) allowed six earned runs and eight hits in five innings.

Boyd was relieved by Joe Jimenez (2-0), who worked out of a two-on, one-out jam.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford's big bat helped San Francisco finally snap out of an offensive funk as Arizona's road struggles kept going.

Crawford homered and drove in three runs as the Giants sent the Diamondbacks to their 20th straight road loss with a 5-2 victory Monday night.

"We're in a grind right now. I don't know where it's at,

what's been happening or the reasons, but we're working hard to figure that out," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said.

The D-backs moved closer to the dubious major league record for consecutive road defeats held by the 1963 New York Mets, who dropped 22 in a row away from the Polo Grounds. Arizona has lost 11 straight overall.

Alex Wood (6-3) won for the first time in five starts, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings, striking out seven. He snapped his three-game losing streak with his first win since May 16 at Pittsburgh.

Mariners 4, Twins 3

In Seattle, Jake Bauers barely cleared the wall in right-center field with his first home run since being traded to Seattle and lifted the Mariners to a 4-3 win over the Minnesota Twins on Monday night.

Bauers' third homer of the season was a tiebreaking, solo drive with one out in the eighth inning off reliever Hansel Robles (2-3). Bauers lined a 1-0 pitch just beyond the reach of Nick Gordon's leaping attempt at the fence.

Bauers was traded from Cleveland to Seattle last week after he was designated for assignment by the Indians earlier this month.

Seattle trailed 3-1, but scored twice in the fifth and the Mariners bullpen shut down the Twins long enough for Bauers to come through with the big hit.

JT Chargois and Paul Sewald (3-2) combined for three scoreless innings of relief and Drew Steckenrider pitched the ninth

Cleveland Indians' Amed Rosario, left, gets Baltimore Orioles' Stevie Wilkerson at second base in the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, June 14, 2021, in Cleveland.

for his first save.

Dodgers 3, Phillies 1

In Los Angeles, Will Smith hit a two-run homer, Chris Taylor added a solo shot and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-1 on Monday night despite getting just three hits and four baserunners.

Pinch-hitter Albert Pujols' single in the seventh was the only other hit for the defending World Series champions, but they hung on for their sixth victory in seven games with eight consecutive scoreless innings from seven pitchers.

Bryce Harper drove in a run in the first inning for the Phillies, whose four-game winning streak ended in the opener of a six-game California road trip.

Tony Gonsolin yielded four hits and lasted just 3 2/3 rocky innings in his second start of the season for the Dodgers, but the bullpen allowed only four singles and didn't walk a batter.

David Price (2-0) got the win after stranding two runners to end the fourth. Kenley Jansen threw a perfect nine-pitch ninth inning for his 16th save.

Athletics 8, Angels 5

In Oakland, Calif., Sean Murphy hit a two-run homer, Mitch Moreland had a two-run single and the Oakland Athletics held off the Los Angeles Angels 8-5 on Monday night.

Sean Manaea overcame an early home run and pitched into the sixth inning to help the AL West leaders improve to 41-27—the best record for the A's through 68 games since 2014.

Juan Lagares hit his first home run of the season for the Angels, who had won six straight and eight of nine. David Fletcher and José Iglesias had four hits apiece.

Moreland singled off starter Dylan Bundy for career hit No. 1,000 with one out in the second. Murphy followed with his seventh home run, a towering drive to right. Moreland added his two-run single in the third.

Manaea (6-2) had five strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings and won his third straight. The lefty allowed nine hits and one run.

Los Angeles rallied for four runs against the A's bullpen in the seventh. Jared Walsh had a two-run double and Fletcher singled to make it 8-5.

RBA, Diaz welcome new 8U division

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rollers Basketball Association is starting them young with the addition of a new 8-and-under age group.

RBA head coach Joe Diaz said they initially wanted to establish an 8U division last January but the lack of coaches stymied their plans.

"Our coaches David Apatang Jr. and Mike Mercado and I had a meeting last January about setting up an 8U age group. But at that time we did not have enough coaches so we had to cancel the [establishment] of a new division," he said.

RBA had another meeting recently and after a head count of new coaches coming out of their pipeline from the older age group divisions, Diaz and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rollers Basketball Association coaches and players pose with their newly bought portable 8-foot basketball rims at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

The 8U division under Iguel and his platoon of assistant coaches will be tasked to develop the CNMI's future generation of national players the rudiments of proper footwork (pivoting, jump stop, jab step, drop step, zero step, and stride stop, etc.), proper shooting form, and dribbling skills.

Following the formation of the 8U division, RBA installed 8-foot portable basketball rims for them to train on in RBA's homecourt at the Koblerville Basketball Gymnasium.

"The portable rims will help out our young kids with their shooting form because normally the height of a basketball rim for 8U is 8-foot high and a 10-foot rim is just too high and they are really having a hard time with that," said the RBA head coach.

Diaz thanked the RBA board and its officers for purchasing the new 8-foot basketball rims for their newest age group. The RBA officers are led by president Juan T. Dela Cruz, vice president Norris Kwon, secretary Vern Babauta, and treasurer Fausia Dela Cruz.

TSUNAMI

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cial time of 1:30.45. He said the converted time is 2:11.54, which is faster than CNMI national record of 2:14.04 set by Jonathan Sakovich in 1988.

"Isaiah Aleksenko's time is really amazing. He's the most outstanding swimmer awardee in the 2019 Palau Micronesian Swimming Championships and at not even 15 years, he unofficially broke the CNMI national record already," he said.

Kimura said he is really looking forward for Aleksenko to break more CNMI records as his future in swimming is really bright.

Besides Batallones and Aleksenko, the Tsunami Saipan head coach also have kudos to Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and Kean Pajarillaga.

Tenorio updated his best times in the 100m and 200m backstroke as both swims during the time trials were unofficially faster than the CNMI national record in the events.

Suzuki also improved his personal best in the 200m freestyle, which Kimura said is unofficially faster than CNMI boys 15-16 record.

Pajarillaga, for his part, swam his best time in the 200m

backstroke, which unofficially is a CNMI boys 13-14 record.

"Aside from the unofficial record-breaking times, everyone achieved AAAA grade time," said Kimura.

Among the younger Tsunami Saipan swimmers, Kimura said Sari Barman and Maria Guerrero submitted good times during last month's time trials.

The 10-year-old Barman got AA grade level in two events—the 100m butterfly and 100m backstroke—and A grade in two more events. The 9-year-old Guerrero achieved A grade in her first swim in the 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle. Tsunami Saipan's next time trials will be held in July.

Kimura also announced that several Tsunami Saipan swimmers were invited to the Guam meet qualifiers after getting BB and over grades. They include Kevin Guerrero, Joseph Zhang, Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Andrew Nunet, Kaito Rechucher, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, Shuman Barman, Kouki Watanabe, Justin Ma, Richard Zhao, Ayumi Obligacion, Asaka Litulumar, Aoi Braxton, Julia Jinang, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Batallones, Nagisa Litulumar, Kaya Braxton, Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, and Shana Barman.

mixed doubles. The team with the most points at the end of the round-robin play wins the division. NMITA will award prizes to the Top 3 teams in each category.

The Marianas Tennis Invitational Team Cup will sort of prepare NMITA for the hosting of the tennis event in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. The competition will also feature players that will vie for slots on the CNMI national tennis team that will see action in next year's Mini Games.

company decided that it was finally the opportune time to setup the 8U division.

"Coach David called me one time and asked if we can open back the 8U division. I said 'sure but do we have enough coaches?' He said we can ask the older boys to help us as assistant coaches so I again called for a coaches meeting. It turned a lot of our older players volunteered to coach the new age group that's how it came about," he said.

The newly established RBA

8U age group will have Matt Iguel as head coach with Chioni Dela Cruz, Ervin Villarin, T.J. Factor, Kyu Aldan, and Leo Naraja serving as assistant coaches.

"What made us do this is I saw Guam have an 8U developmental program for their young players. They did that so they can develop the future of their national basketball program and I want RBA to follow that," said Diaz.

Iguel thus joins the ranks of RBA's head coaches, which

already include Apatang for 12U and Mercado for 1U4. Diaz coaches the 16U and 18U divisions.

As of now, the 8U age group has 14 players compared to the 14U division and 12U division which have 24 and 22 players, respectively.

"That's not including our girls 16U and 18U teams. We want to start them young so in that age we would be able to teach basic basketball level drills," said Diaz.

WIN

From Page 20

Kong Sunday night.

"In Game 1, Jericho made a statement and I expect him to continue to not only look for his own shot, but also create for others," he said.

Cruz's breakout performance was in stark contrast to his anemic 4-point performance against New Zealand in February 2020 that Guam lost to the tune of 113-94. That game served as Cruz's debut for Guam.

"Jericho is a pro, and doesn't need a lot of motivation to play hard. I just need to provide an opportunity for him to succeed with spacing and good timing in our offense," said Calvo when asked about his ward's complete 180-degree turnaround.

Calvo also echoed Cruz's words that Cruz and company are not only representing Guam in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers but the rest of Micronesia as well.

"We have a big second game against Hong Kong and adjustments have been made. Our mission to get these two wins and advance to the FIBA Asia Cup for the first time. This is history for the Pacific Islands and we are proudly representing the region as well as our island of Guam," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jericho Cruz, right, poses with former CNMI national and high school teammate Joemar Tumaquip, who is now a sergeant in the U.S. Marines.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball president James Lee, who is a former teammate of Cruz in the CNMI national men's basketball team, also came away impressed with Cruz's showing in the first game against Hong Kong.

"Jericho and his team look

great out there. Great chemistry and trust which leads to great ball movement and open shots for him and for his teammates," said Lee, who even joked that Guam was lucky he didn't see action for the Hong Kong side. The Marpac beverage sales manager's family

hails from Hong Kong.

Rollers Basketball Association head coach Joe Diaz said Cruz remains an inspiration to young basketball players in the Commonwealth.

"Man it's awesome for me to see a Saipan kid to be playing in that high level competition. What Jericho Cruz just did is show the kids back in the CNMI that dreams do come true if you just work hard for it. I have no words seeing him play against Hong Kong in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers. I'm so proud of him. I hope one day he can come back home and do a camp here in the CNMI," he said.

Joemar Tumaquip, a sergeant in the U.S. Marines, said he's proud of his former teammate, adding that he's happy all of Cruz's hard work the past several months is finally paying off.

"We've known each other for a long time now, I don't even know where to start talking about growing up and playing ball together. He trained and worked hard with the Guam national team while they were here in California. He's finally blending in nicely with his teammates, plus he's having fun," said Tumaquip who played with Cruz in the CNMI national men's basketball team and MHS Dolphins.



Young leads Hawks' rally past Sixers with Embiid hurting

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RBA, Diaz welcome new 8U division

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Win against HK for CNMI, Guam'

FIBA ASIA
Saipan native son Jericho Cruz in action against Hong Kong in Game 1 of Guam's two-game set against Hong Kong in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan.



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

He may have Guam emblazoned across his chest, but Jericho Cruz said his 25-point, 7-assist, 4-rebound performance in the U.S. territory's impressive 103-82 victory over Hong Kong last Sunday was also dedicated to his home islands of the Northern Marianas.



"I'm doing this for the island of Saipan and Guam," said the 30-year-old Marianas High School alumnus in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune* from Amman, Jordan where he and the Guam national basketball team took on Hong Kong anew last night in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers.

"I got more work to do. I'm just glad that we got our first win and hopefully it's not the last," added Cruz.

The 6'1" NLEX Road Warrior in the Philippine Basketball Association said even if he's suiting up for Guam, where he has paternal roots, he will always play hard for his loved ones and friends on Saipan.

"I just want to thank them for their support. I appreciate them... I feel great and my mindset is always to win," he added.

Coming into Game 2 of their bubble series against the former British Crown colony, Cruz said he's approaching it as if it's the first game again and will play to the best of his ability.

"I'm not expecting anything. I'm just gonna go out there and work hard as always."

Guam men's national basketball team coach E.J. Calvo said Cruz finally showed what

he's capable of against Hong

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Tsunami Saipan swimmers make waves anew in time trials

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Olympic-size pool or not Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members continue to practice and managed to record impressive swims during their time trials last month.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura made special mention of club mainstays Maria Batallones and Isaiah Aleksenko as swimmers that performed very well in their May time trial.

Batallones swam the 100m breaststroke in an unofficial time of 57.26, which Kimu-

ra said when converted to a 50m course swimming pool would've eclipsed the CNMI girls 11-12 record of 1:25.40

set by Myana Welch in 2002.

The Hopwood Junior High School student is the CNMI's current record-holder in the 8-and-under girls 50m breastroke and recently marked AAA grade time for her 100

backstroke.

Kimura said last month Aleksenko also swam the 200m butterfly in an unoffi-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers in action during their time trials last month held in an undisclosed swimming pool on Saipan.

Marianas Team Cup set this weekend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tahiti's Heimanarii Lai San, seen here in an undated file photo, will play for Team 3 in the senior division of the Marianas Tennis Invitational Team Cup at the American Memorial Park this weekend.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be holding the Marianas Tennis Invitational Team Cup at the American Memorial Park this weekend.

The team event, which is a first for NMITA, will feature

competition in the senior and junior divisions with each category having five squads apiece.

Team 1 in the senior division is made up of T.J. Bellama, Colin Ramsey, and Serin Chung, while Team 2 has Moris Villanueva, Jun Wang, and Tania Tan.

Heimanarii Lai San of Tahiti and a member of the University of South Carolina men's team in the National Junior College Athletic Association will lead Team 3 and will play with Andy Kim and Hye Jin Elliot. Samoa Pacific Games participant Ken Song and Malika Miyawaki will join David Kwon on Team 4, while Team 5 will have Jimin Woo, Sean Lee, and Metropolitan State University-Denver standout Isabel Heras, who also represented the CNMI in the Pacific Games in Samoa in 2019.

In the junior division, June Yu, Si Woo Lee, and Savita Sikkell are on Team 1, while Wataru Kadokura will join forces with Simon Tang and Anna Kwon on Team 2. Cody Shimizu, who won in NMITA's last local junior event of the season (boys U14 singles), will have Eamon Tang and Irin Chung as teammates on Team 3, while Daniel Kang, Yutaka Kadokura, and Helen

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